



Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

701.232.3242 • FAX 701.232.5043 • Case Plaza Suite 232 • One 2nd Street North • Fargo, North Dakota 58102-4807

Email: metrocog@fmmetrocog.org

<http://www.fmmetrocog.org>

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CASS COUNTY COMMISSION

JUL 26 2017

To: Cass County Board of Commissioners
From: Kim Lipetzky – Fargo Cass Public Health
Megan Myrdal – Cass Clay Food Commission
Adam Altenburg – Metro COG
Date: July 26, 2017
Subject: Cass Clay Food Commission Update and Cass Clay Food Partners Restructure

Cass Clay Food Commission Update. Since March 2015, the Cass Clay Food Commission (formerly the Cass Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission) has worked to advise elected officials, policy makers, and city and county staff on ways of increasing access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. During much of this time, the Commission has focused on the broad area of urban agriculture and has developed a number of policy blueprints examining the technical, practical, and financial considerations for different practices. Each blueprint includes background information on an urban agriculture issue, a framework for evaluating benefits and concerns, and model codes and example ordinances from other jurisdictions in the region and throughout the country. The intended purpose of these blueprints is to provide policy guidance and education to city and county officials, planning departments, and other interested parties should a community decide to address an urban agriculture issue. Each blueprint is available to download on the Fargo Cass Public Health website.

Cass Clay Food Partners Restructure. The Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative was formed in 2010 in response to a growing local interest in healthy food access and opportunities to produce and consume locally grown food. As part of its work, the Initiative worked closely with Metro COG to develop the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan and a Joint Powers Agreement creating the Cass Clay Food Commission.

During this time, the Fargo-Moorhead food system has transformed significantly. New farms, businesses, and markets have emerged, and there are increasing opportunities to grow, buy, and sell local food. New organizations are working to provide community gardens, to teach food skills, and to build relationships with fellow community members around growing, cooking, and sharing local food. More groups are working to address issues related to hunger, waste, and community food resilience.

As the local food system has evolved and as community food systems grow, there is an opportunity to restructure the Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative to better serve the needs of the community. The goal of this restructure is to help individuals better understand what is happening in the community and to highlight ways for people to become active and involved. Additionally, with the significant growth experienced in the local food system, there is a need for more collaboration and partnerships to increase access to safe, nutritious and affordable food in the area.

The Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative will be becoming the **Cass Clay Food Partners**. The Cass Clay Food Partners will include the **Cass Clay Food Partners Steering Committee** (advisory committee of key government agencies and local food systems experts), the **Cass Clay Food Commission** (local policy board representing jurisdictions in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area), and the **Cass Clay Food Action Network** (a network of community organizations and individuals working together to accelerate food system progress).

Cass Clay Food Commission Blueprints

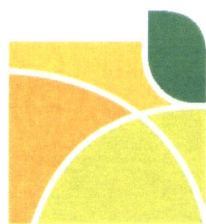
Blueprints are documents developed by the Cass Clay Food Commission to assist local governments interested in addressing food system issues through policy and interventions. The documents are available for use by jurisdictions interested in moving a particular food system topic forward in their community.

The blueprint documents highlight background information and needs within our local food system, benefits and concerns as they relate to an evaluation framework (health, environment, economic and social perspectives), and examples of policies and ordinances in other jurisdictions in the region (i.e. Sioux Falls, Lincoln, Duluth) and throughout the United States.

Blueprints developed to date include:

- Community Gardens
- Residential Gardening
- Farmer's Markets
- Cottage Food Laws
- Backyard Season Extenders
- Backyard Composting
- Municipal Composting
- Backyard Chicken Keeping
- Beekeeping
- Gleaning (draft)

To access the blueprints visit www.cassclayfoodpartners.com, click "Resources" on the left, then "Blueprints". For a manual of all current blueprints contact Adam Altenburg, Metro COG at (701) 232-3242.



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Cass Clay Food Partners

Restructure and Future Direction

Cass County Commission

August 7, 2017



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Overview

- History of the Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative
- Cass Clay Food Commission
- Restructure to the Cass Clay Food Partners
- Future Direction

History

- Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative formed in 2010
 - Joint effort between Public Health and Extension in Cass and Clay counties
- Metropolitan Food Systems Plan
 - Completed in 2013 with the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG)
 - Baseline assessment and actions to improve the local food system



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Cass Clay Food Commission

- Formed in fall of 2014 through a Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Fargo and Clay County
- **Purpose:** To advise policy makers and elected officials in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area on how to assure that residents have access to safe, nutritious and affordable food.



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Cass Clay Food Commission

- **Voting Members:** Governmental members – six (6) appointed by the jurisdiction they represent
 - City of Fargo: John Strand
 - City of Moorhead: Heidi Durand
 - City of West Fargo: Mike Thorstad
 - City of Dilworth: Jim Aasness
 - Cass County: Arland Rasmussen
 - Clay County: Jenny Mongeau
 - At-large members: Jon Evert, Dana Rieth, Mindy, Grant, Chris Olson and Kayla Pridmore
 - **Ex-officio Membership:** Ex-officio (non-voting) membership shall be granted to Fargo Cass Public Health, Clay County Public Health, the Steering Committee and Metro COG.

Cass Clay Food Commission

Progress to Date

- First official meeting: March 2015
- **Urban Agriculture** was identified as a priority issue in the Metro by the food systems plan, Steering Committee and the Commission
- In June 2015, an online community survey was conducted to prioritize urban agriculture issues; community gardens was identified as the most important issue to F-M area residents
- Ten policy blueprints developed, nine approved by the Commission:
 - Community Gardens, Urban Bees, Urban Chickens, Backyard Composting, Season Extenders, Farmers Markets, Residential Gardening, Municipal Composting, and Cottage Food Laws. (*Pending: Gleaning*)

Restructure of the Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative

- Moved beyond an “Initiative”
- Best serve the needs of the community and to meet our mission
- Create a pathway for this to be community driven



Goals of the Restructure

- Recognize and embrace the strong evolution of the Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative to **best serve the needs** of the community
- Effectively engage interested community members in the mission
- *Facilitate connections* between policy makers and constituents to **effectively implement** the mission



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**Cass Clay
Food
Commission**



**Cass Clay Food
Partners
Steering
Committee**



**Cass Clay
Food Action
Network**

Cass Clay Food Partners

Building a strong, healthy and vibrant food system

Mission: To improve all levels of our community food system to assure that residents have access to safe, nutritious, affordable and culturally-based foods.

Vision: All members of the community have access to safe, nutritious, affordable, and culturally-based food.



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Cass Clay Food Partners Values

- We believe in an **inclusive, integrated, and equitable** food system.
- We believe in a food system that is **economically and ecologically resilient**.
- We believe in a food system where ***all cultures*** are respected.
- We believe in a food system that **supports and enhances quality of life** for all citizens.
- We believe in a food system that **fosters successful entrepreneurship** and **sustainable innovation**.



Cass Clay Food Partners Statement of Approach

We approach the accomplishment of our stated goals and values by:

- Encouraging shared leadership throughout the Partners
- Engaging the citizens and key stakeholders of Cass and Clay counties to take action
- Fostering teamwork and shared responsibility
- Catalyzing systemic changes through food-related policy and environmental approaches





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**Cass Clay
Food
Commission**



**Cass Clay Food
Partners
Steering
Committee**



**Cass Clay
Food Action
Network**

CCFP Steering Committee

- Purpose: an advisory committee comprised of key government organizations and food systems experts working to provide direction, organization and management to the CCFP, which includes the Cass Clay Food Commission and Cass Clay Food Action Network.
 - Members:
 - **Fargo Cass Public Health: Kim Lipetzky**
 - **Clay County Public Health: Gina Nolte**
 - **NDSU Extension Service - Cass County: Rita Ussatis**
 - **U of MN Extension: Noelle Harden**
 - **Metro COG: Adam Altenburg**
 - Area Planner: Hali Durand
 - Project Coordinator: Megan Myrdal
 - Blueprint Writer:
 - Food Systems Experts (up to 5): Abby Gold, Deb Haugen and Nikki Johnson
- *Bold indicates core sustaining member organizations



Cass Clay Food Commission

- **Purpose:** To advise policy makers and elected officials in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area on how to assure that residents have access to safe, nutritious, affordable, and culturally-based food.
- **Voting Members:** Governmental members – six (6) appointed by the jurisdiction they represent
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Cass Clay Food Action Network

- Purpose: To **facilitate connections** and **leverage capacity** of partners to increase access to safe, nutritious, affordable and culturally-based food for all residents of Cass and Clay counties.
- Bi-monthly meetings open to any individual or organization working to advance the mission of the Cass Clay Food Partners.
- Goals: Educate, **Engage**, Connect, **Coordinate** & Shared Action



Moving Forward

- Present to participating jurisdictions about the restructure (July – September 2017)
- Organize the first Cass Clay Food Action Network Meeting: Goal November 2017
- Future Blueprints: Food Access



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Questions?

www.cassclayfoodpartners.com

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