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**To:** Cass Clay Food Commission  
**From:** Cass Clay Food Partners  
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG)  
**Date:** January 7, 2022  
**RE:** Cass Clay Food Commission Agenda and Correspondence

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### 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Cass Clay Food Commission

January 12, 2022 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85717173154?pwd=Rm1MdUlhSmVaNjJjO0dRWURWN3ZCUT09>

- |          |                                                                                          |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:30 am | 1. Welcome                                                                               |
|          | a. Approve Order & Contents of the Overall Agenda                                        |
|          | b. Review & Action on Minutes from November 10, 2021 ( <b>Attachment 1</b> )             |
|          | c. Welcome to New Food Commission Member: Jenna Kahly, Clay County                       |
| 10:35 am | 2. Commission Check-In – Chair Aasness                                                   |
| 10:40 am | 3. Approve Appointments of At-Large Members – Adam Altenburg ( <b>Attachment 2</b> )     |
|          | a. New Appointments: Anna Johnson & Joan Kopperud                                        |
|          | b. Reappointment: Jeffrey Miller                                                         |
| 10:50 am | 4. Mental Health & Food Insecurity – Rory Beil                                           |
| 11:15 am | 5. First Link Presentation on Food Questions from Callers – Kesha Sauvageau              |
| 11:40 am | 6. Public Comment Opportunity – Chair Aasness                                            |
| 11:50 am | 7. Commission & Steering Committee Roundtable – Chair Aasness                            |
| 11:55 am | 8. Commission Action Steps                                                               |
|          | a. Next First Fridays – February 7, 2022                                                 |
|          | b. Commission Meeting Schedule for 2022 ( <b>Meetings Virtual until Further Notice</b> ) |
|          | i. January 12, 2022                                                                      |
|          | ii. March 9, 2022                                                                        |
|          | iii. May 11, 2022                                                                        |
|          | iv. *Summer Break*                                                                       |
|          | v. September 14, 2022                                                                    |
|          | vi. November 9, 2022                                                                     |
| 12:00 pm | 9. Adjournment                                                                           |

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Cass Clay Food Commission meetings are taped and rebroadcast on cable channel TV Fargo 56 each Friday at 11:00 am. People with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and need special accommodations should contact Savanna Leach at Metro COG at 701.532.5100. Please contact us at least 48 hours before the meeting to give our staff adequate time to make arrangements. Meeting minutes are available on the Cass Clay Food Partners website at [www.cassclayfoodpartners.org](http://www.cassclayfoodpartners.org) and Metro COG's website at [www.fmmetrocog.org](http://www.fmmetrocog.org).

# Attachment 1

**36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Cass Clay Food Commission  
November 10, 2021  
Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commission, Chair  
Jim Aasness, Dilworth City Council  
Arlette Preston, Fargo City Commission  
Deb White, City of Moorhead  
Duane Breitling, Cass County Commission  
Mandy George, West Fargo City Commission  
Beth McConnon, At-Large Member  
Janice Tweet, At-Large Member  
Jeremiah Utecht, At-Large Member  
Jeff York, At-Large Member

**Members Absent:**

Chelsey Johnson, Horace City Council  
Jeffrey Miller, At-Large Member

**Others Present:**

Jenna Kahly, Clay County Commission  
Michelle Draxten, Fargo Cass Public Health  
Rita Ussatis, NDSU Extension  
Noelle Harden, U of M Extension  
Mary Larson, NDSU – Community Health Sciences Specialization  
Taylor Syvertson, Great Plains Food Bank  
Adam Altenburg, Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

Chair Mongeau called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

**1a. Approve Order and Contents of the Overall Agenda**

A motion to approve the order and contents of the overall agenda was made by Ms. White and seconded by Mr. Aasness. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

**1b. Review and Action on Minutes from September 8, 2021**

A motion to approve the minutes for September was made by Ms. White and seconded by Ms. George. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

**1c. Welcome to Michelle Draxten, New Steering Committee Member**

Chair Mongeau welcomed new steering committee member Michelle Draxten. She noted that Ms. Draxten is a Public Health Nutritionist at Fargo Cass Public Health and would be taking over Kim Lipetzky's position on the steering committee.

**2. Commission Check-In**

Chair Mongeau stated that Commission members and the steering committee had an opportunity to provide updates on news or events happening in the community.

Mr. Breitling noted that Cass County had approved its redistricting plan, with boundaries close to what they had been previously.

Ms. White mentioned that a property was recently purchased in south Moorhead for redevelopment and that developers have been working with the neighborhood on delineating a shared green space. She noted that the development is adjacent to Moorhead Presbyterian Church which already has a community garden, and that the developers have discussed incorporating a small urban orchard.

Ms. McConnon informed the Commission that her farm has developed a test plot in cooperation with North Dakota State University researching perennial flax varieties that could add more perennials to the landscape. She noted that the results have been good thus far.

Ms. Harden provide a brief recap of the Pollinator Power Walk in Moorhead on September 22. She stated that approximately 25 to 30 people attended and that it was exciting to hear residents and city officials discuss the role and importance of urban pollinator habitats. She noted that the Cass Clay Food Partners would be interested in hosting future events, including additional pollinator power walks or boulevard garden tours at the neighborhood level.

Additional, Ms. Harden informed the Commission about Lawns to Legumes, a Minnesota Board of Water and Soil resources program which offer workshops, planning guides, and funding to install pollinator-friendly native plantings in residential lawns. She noted that the applications were currently being accepted for individual support grants as well as demonstration neighborhood grants.

Ms. Tweet provided a brief update on GleaNND, noting that the network had now expanded to the Bismarck-Mandan area and had conducted its first gleans at apple orchards in the area.

Ms. Preston arrived at 10:39 AM.

Chair Mongeau shared that the Clay County Board of Commissioners had recently approved funds to purchase freezers for A Place for Hope, which has developed a successful food distribution program in Clay County. She noted that the Board of Commissioners has also allocated funds to purchase a van to be utilized for food distribution to county residents. She also provided a brief update on the county's comprehensive plan update.

Ms. George informed the Commission that residents in the Elmwood Park neighborhood in West Fargo have begun express interest in developing a community garden after the West Fargo Park District failed to sell off part of the park for townhome redevelopment.

### **3. Taking Action to Address Food Insecurity and Hunger**

Ms. Syvertson and Ms. Tweet gave a presentation on highlights from the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunger and Health Summit hosted by the Cass Clay Hunger Coalition on October 28. Ms. Syvertson noted that the Cass Clay Hunger Coalition has for primary focus areas: food insecurity, food access, hunger and health, and awareness and engagement.

Ms. Syvertson provided information on one of the presentations from the summit which discussed the social determinants of health and how the environment can impact health and wellbeing. Several determinants that were discussed in detail included safe housing, transportation, education, job opportunities, access to nutritious foods, physical activity opportunities, and language barriers.

At the end of the presentation, Ms. Syvertson and Ms. Tweet asked Commission and steering committee members a series of polling questions to answer. These questions included: current level of awareness of existing work around hunger relief in communities, ways in which members participate in local hunger relief efforts, topics that Commission members would be interested in hearing about at future meetings, methods for advancing policies at the local level, and interest in participating in future hunger relief initiatives.

#### **4. American Public Health Association National Meeting Recap**

Ms. Larson provided a brief recap of the APHA national meeting held October 21-27. She explained that she was the program chair for the Food and Nutrition Section and that the conference received over 400 abstracts from professionals across the country. She highlighted three sessions for the Commission: Healthy Eating Research Nutrition Guidelines for the Charitable Food System, Creating Food Justice through Community Networks, and Essential Factors to Achieve Food and Nutrition Security and Health.

#### **5. Cass Clay Food Commission Updates**

Ms. Harden discussed that the Commission will have two open at-large member seats at the beginning in January and that the steering committee would be putting out a call for new at-large members for 2022-2023.

#### **6. Public Comment Opportunity**

Chair Mongeau informed the Commission that time would be allotted for public comments. She noted that there is now a new way for members of the community to submit comments via a link when Commission packets are emailed out.

There were no online comments and no additional public comments were made.

#### **7. Commission and Steering Committee Roundtable**

Chair Mongeau asked for the Commission and the steering committee to share any additional updates.

Chair Mongeau noted that this would be her last meeting serving as Clay County's representative on the Commission. Members of the Commission and steering committee thanked Chair Mongeau for her time and work on the Commission.

#### **8. Commission Action Steps**

Chair Mongeau stated that the next Commission meeting would be held on January 12, 2022. She also mentioned that the next First Fridays event would be held at 701 Eateries in Fargo on December 3 at 8:00 AM.

Chair Mongeau adjourned the meeting at 11:49 AM.

## Attachment 2

**To:** Cass Clay Food Commission  
**From:** Adam Altenburg, Metro COG  
**Date:** January 4, 2022  
**Re:** *Approve Appointments of New At-Large Commission Members*

In addition to members from each of the seven jurisdictions in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area, there is provision for an additional five at-large members to serve on the Food Commission. It is the intent that at-large members bring additional and varied expertise to the Commission. At-large members are initially vetted by the Steering Committee before being brought to a vote by the Commission. Each at-large member serves a two-year term.

With Beth McConnon and Janice Tweet both having concluded their terms, the Steering Committee sought applicants for two new at-large member in late November and early December. With the completion of this process, the Steering Committee recommends the appointment of Anna Johnson and Joan Kopperud as new at-large members to the Food Commission.

The Steering Committee also recommends the reappointment of Jeffrey Miller to an additional two-year term on the Commission.

**Requested Action:**

**Approve the appointments of Anna Johnson and Joan Kopperud, and reappointment of Jeffrey Miller to the Food Commission**

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Preferred mailing address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

## EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current employer:

Employer address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Fax:

City:

State:

Zip:

Position:

**WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?**

**REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:**

**PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS):** NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.

Signature:

*Anna R. Johnson*

Date:

Please return this form to [Michelle Draxten - MDraxten@FargoND.gov](mailto:MDraxten@FargoND.gov)

Or mail to:

**Fargo Cass Public Health**

Attn: Michelle Draxten

1240 25<sup>th</sup> Street South

Fargo, ND 58103-2367

APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD COMMISSION		
APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Name: Joan Kopperud		
701-866-6163		
Email: <a href="mailto:kopperud@cord.edu">kopperud@cord.edu</a>		
Preferred mailing address: 4020 S. Rivershore Dr.		
City: Moorhead	State: MN	56560
EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION		
Current employer: recently retired from Concordia College		
Employer address:		
Phone:	E-mail:	Fax:
City:	State:	Zip:
Position: Professor Emeritus of English; currently, Professor Emeritus in Residence		
WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?		
<p>I have a passion for food-related issues, especially reducing food waste, sustainable food-practices, and food insecurity. Following are examples of my interests and experience: Almost five years ago, I initiated Concordia College's Taste Not Waste campaign, an effort to reduce food waste in Anderson Commons, the main dining facility, by 50% within four years, a goal successfully achieved. I also co-chaired "Food for Good," the fall 2020 Faith, Reason, and World Affairs annual symposium event at Concordia. Over the years, I also have volunteered at Churches United to prepare and serve meals, as well as volunteered at Great Plains Food Bank on my own and with my students after Director Melissa Sobolik visited one of my first-year writing classes as a guest speaker. Most recently, I was awarded Professor Emeritus in Residence status at Concordia to work with a new venture at Concordia, the Cobber Food Pantry.</p>		
REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:		
<p>As of May 2021, after thirty-one years at Concordia, I retired from the Department of English; I also served the past four years as the Director of Integrative Learning. Currently, I am selectively look for opportunities to serve the F/M community. After presenting about Concordia's effort to reduce food waste on campus at the Cass/Clay Food Commission a couple of years ago, I've kept the commission in the back on my mind as a possible place where I could put my interests and talents to work in serve to others. Now that I am fully retired, I believe I have the time and interest to be of service to the work of this important commission.</p>		
PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS): NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.		

Dr. Joan Kopperud is Professor Emeritus of English and former Director of Integrative Learning at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. A strong proponent of experiential education, Kopperud also co-authored *The Service-Learning Companion* (Duncan and Kopperud, Houghton Mifflin 2008). In 2010, Concordia recognized her passion for teaching with the Ole and Lucy Flaot Distinguished Teaching Award, and in 2018, the Alma and Reuel Wiji Distinguished Professor Award. In spring 2020, Minnesota Campus Compact awarded Kopperud with the Civic Engagement Leadership Award for the successful initiative she led to reduce food waste at Concordia College. Kopperud also co-chaired "Food for Good," the fall 2020 Faith, Reason, and World Affairs symposium at Concordia. Currently, Kopperud is Professor Emeritus in Residence to support the work and mission of Concordia's Cobber Food Pantry initiative.

**Signature: Joan Kopperud**

**Date: November 9, 2021**

Please return this form to Kim Lipetzky – [KLipetzky@FargoND.gov](mailto:KLipetzky@FargoND.gov) Or

mail to:

**Fargo Cass Public Health**

Attn: Kim Lipetzky  
1240 25<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Fargo, ND 58103-2367