



**1525 Blue Spruce Drive
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524
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www.larimer.org/ext**

Extension Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2025
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. virtually via Zoom

Advisory Board members attending: Kara Rudnick, Dick Christensen, JoAnn Herkenhoff, Kelly Pollard, Margaret Long, Xochil Arellano, K-Lynn Cameron, Scott Hapner

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner Kristin Stephens was not present

Extension staff attending: Andy Weakland, Rachel Wildman, Britney Filter, Alison O'Connor, Analecia Vasquez, Maggie Switzer, Bailey Schilling, Christa Timmerman, Lisa Auer, Jessica Callen, Amber Webb

CALL TO ORDER: at 8:00 a.m. by Kelly Pollard.

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved as is.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: January 7, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

BOARD FEEDBACK: No board feedback.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT/COMMENTS: Commissioner Stephens was not present at this meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS: (10 minutes, highlights)

4-H: (Rachel, Bailey, Britney)

- See presentation for updates.

Ag & Natural Resources: (Jess)

- Grant and Grow was held at CSU on Jan 31, 2025. The event was a success with 70 people participating in person and approximately 30 online.

- Grant and Grow was also held in Montrose, CO January 23, 2025 with 45 in attendance. There will be a session held in Wyoming by the Wyoming Food Coalition on February 15, 2025.
- Jess led two grant writing workshops after the event with Northern Colorado Foodshed Project and the Regional Food Business Center
- Native Plant Master Courses are full and there are limited spots available left in the Native Landscaping and Alpine classes.
- On February 10, 2025, Jess presented at the Larimer County Commissioners' Work Session about the Soil Health Action Committee (SHAC).
- Jess led the SHAC 2025 quarter one meeting on February 11, 2025 and determined action items for 2025
- Jess attended, planned and led a session about agritourism at the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association 2025 Conference.
- Jess will be presenting a poster on Grant and Grow at the Extension Risk Management Education Conference in Nashville, TN on April 1-3, 2025.

Community Development: (Lisa)

- FLTI Larimer County, in collaboration with the Center for Public Deliberation, is training community guides to gather input on community priorities for the Hughes Stadium land. We have conducted two training sessions, each consisting of two sessions, to equip 20 guides with the skills to engage residents effectively. Our office continues to support these guides as they facilitate conversations and collect valuable community insights. A \$10,000.00 grant was awarded from the OVPR to support this effort.
- We are hosting monthly Spanish Aging Mastery alumni groups to keep the social connections strong. In January, Amber Webb presented her Mediterranean Cooking class to the group. In March, we will have a psychologist present on resilience and mindfulness.
- With the help of Christa Timmerman, we were able to secure funds to support another Spanish Aging Mastery class in the fall and the alumni groups through the Office on Aging.
- In collaboration with Larimer County, the City of Fort Collins and the non-profit La Familia, we are planning for a local government workshop on April 7, 2025.
- FLTI is continuing to host the monthly Nueva Vida Community meetings. On a positive note, the UN/NV board was able to secure a 2.4 million dollar grant for infrastructure needs for the Nueva Vida community.

Farmers' Market (Maggie)

- As of February 21, 2025, we have received 124 vendor applications to the Larimer County Farmers' Market. Some highlights include four new local agricultural producers! Applications close March 14, 2025.
- Opportunity at The Ranch on March 16-17, 2025: For new LCFM agricultural vendors (farmers & ranchers) and some value-added vendors to become certified as SNAP Retailers, which will boost the Produce Bonus program at the market and increase food access in Larimer County. Maggie is coordinating with new vendors to become oriented to the program and get them signed up with the USDA and our statewide pilot implementers.

- Maggie is attending the Colorado Farmers Market Association Conference March 7-9, 2025, in Trinidad, CO.
- Maggie is attending and speaking at [InTents National Farmers Market Conference](#) March 10-12, 2025, in San Diego, CA about the Produce Bonus pilot at LCFM in 2024.
- Maggie is working with the Process Improvement team at Larimer County to adjust the Market Days for Older Adults program to a card-based system. The program is preparing for the 2025 season, including seeking sponsorships and preparing and launching applications.
- Jess & Maggie are on the planning committee for the Front Range Regional Food Summit to be held at CSU on March 28, 2025.

Food Safety & Nutrition (Amber and Analecia)

Retail Food Safety:

- With the adoption of the 2022 Food Code there has been an uptick in registration for testing. The first class of the year on February 20, 2025 hit capacity at 30.
- There have been 61 full class participants signed up to date so far and the voucher money received last year in conjunction with the Larimer County Health Department is almost depleted; there is \$900 left to spend.

Family and Consumer Science:

- Amber received a \$2000 internal grant from the CSU Health and Wellness PRU on behalf of the Food Safety, Food Preservation and Preparation work team she co-leads. The funds will be applied to supply 35-45 additional kitchen toolkit bags to the County Community Corrections clients upon graduation from a 90-day treatment program.
- Per Kara's question, the previous 2020 SNAP grant funded approximately 100 kitchen toolkits.
- In collaboration with Lisa Auer, Amber offered the Mediterranean Diet class to graduates of the Aging Mastery Program. The presentation and handouts were supplied in Spanish and live interpretation was offered to an audience of 12.
- Amber developed a new Cooking for One or Two curriculum and piloted it to a local AARP audience of 21.

Health and Well-Being: (Christa)

- Radon Action Month is over and we have given out over 800 radon test kits to Larimer County residents. We partnered with the Larimer County Health Department to have kits available for pick up in Fort Collins, Loveland, Estes Park, Berthoud and Red Feather Lakes. We also ran a social media campaign on Meta to direct people to online ordering of kits. Lastly, we submitted a joint press release with LCDHE that was picked up by Estes Park News, Estes Park Trail Gazette, Loveland Reporter Herald and KUNC Radio. We are getting test results back already from the lab and are sending letters to residents with levels higher than the EP action level to encourage mitigation and offer resources.
- Christa is partnering with the School of Public Health Faculty to use the radon program as a case study for their mixed methods evaluation course. The students will be creating and implementing an evaluation method to learn about the campaign effectiveness and future considerations to increase testing and mitigation.
- Christa is partnering with specialists in Adams and Boulder Counties to create a nature and health pilot program for middle school aged youth. The pilot will take place this fall

and we will receive guidance from faculty in the department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and OEE Health and Wellbeing.

Horticulture: (Alison)

- Master Gardener training wraps up at the end of March - with volunteer opportunities starting in April.
- Alison and the Master Gardeners will be supporting the National Collegiate Landscape Competition, held at CSU the week of March 17, 2025; more than 80 schools nationwide participate in this competition, and there might be volunteer options available for Advisory Board members.
- Alison and Dr. Khursheed Mama, Interim Department Head of CSU Vet Sciences, will be doing a pet-friendly presentation for HABIC and beyond on March 25, 2025. This is a new partnership and subject!
- Alison has scheduled presentations with Berthoud Local, the Estes Valley Garden Club, Gardens on Spring Creek, Dementia Together, and Resource Central in April.
- Arbor Day will include several events on campus, in our communities, and doing presentations to various schools and students.

General/Other (Cary)

- Cary is attending a County/Area Director annual retreat and plans to be at the May Advisory Committee meeting.
- We are hiring to replace our 4-H Program Coordinator (formerly Diane Kern) and our Marketing and Communications Specialist (formerly Cari Brown). We thank both of them for their service to Larimer County Extension and the community. Interviews for the 4-H position occur on March 10, 2025. Interviews for the MarComms position will occur on April 7, 2025.
- We are continuing the Market Days for Older Adults program, with a refreshed mission of ensuring access to local, nutritious foods. Maggie is leading the program with Analecia (and others) providing support.
- A proposal is being submitted to hire a limited-term Natural Resources position in place of the College & Career position held by Diana Castro before she resigned. The Natural Resources position would focus on small acreage site visits, the Native Plant Master program, and implementation of Larimer County's Water Master Plan. It would allow Jess to focus exclusively on agriculture. We should learn of a decision in March/April.

PRESENTATION: 4-H (Rachel, Bailey and Britney)

(Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation for further information).

COMMITTEE MEMBER ORIENTATION: Andy will send slides out to members.

OFFICER ELECTIONS: JoAnn Herkenhoff was elected as Vice Chair of the Extension Advisory Committee after nominations and passed motion.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: County Fair volunteer opportunities will be communicated.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Aims and Indicators discussion

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:47 a.m.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: May 7, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Weakland
March 5, 2025