



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

**1525 Blue Spruce Drive
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524
(970) 498-6000
FAX: (970) 498-6025
www.larimer.org/ext**

Extension Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 1, 2021
8am – 10am virtually via Zoom

Advisory Board members attending: Matt Holloran, Kara Rudnick, Regan Thomas

Guest: Tony Koski

Commissioner's Office: Commissioner Kristin Stephens

Extension staff attending: Karen Crumbaker, Kerri Rollins, Andy Weakland

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER at 8:05 am by Chair Thomas

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Tony – He is considering applying for the Extension Advisory Committee and asked about the application process. He has been to the website but was not directed to the application.
- Regan – There can be up to 12 members and the application process usually begins in the Spring with openings being filled in the Summer. If a member doesn't serve their entire term, there is a notification placed on seeking new members. He applied through the Larimer County Extension website to apply.
- Kerri – She will investigate the link for the application. It may only be available in the Spring.
- Tony – Shared that he is a volunteer at the Larimer County Farmers' Market every Saturday for the entire season. He expressed his concerns about Emily Aligood's departure and confusion at the market. He is having to put in more time, equivalent to a 13-hour day. He is concerned that there is no communication and no plan for the future. He is wondering what the plan is.
- Matt – Thanked Tony for his comments and for being engaged and moved forward with meeting agenda.
- Kerri – Stated that she appreciates Tony's comments and is willing to chat offline if there is any confusion.

AGENDA approved as written.

APPROVAL OF July 2021 MINUTES. Moved by Matt; seconded. Motion passed and approval of minutes confirmed.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIASON REPORT/COMMENTS – Kristin Stephens:

- The new Larimer County Emergency Operations Center just opened. It was previously at 200 W. Oak St., but the new building is near I-25 and is easier to get to. The Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority will also be housed there, as well as the City of Loveland's emergency management office.
- The end of the budget season is approaching and the BOCC is looking for feedback from the community on how to spend funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (\$70M) for COVID recovery.
- Everyone is encouraged to get on the County's website and use the budget tool to provide more input. The Board is working on land use code issues, childcare, housing, etc.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Kerri – Applauds staff for the amount of work going on and is happy to answer any questions about any of the items (Move forward to Karen Crumbaker's presentation).
- Upcoming Larimer Extension [classes and programs](#)

4-H: (Katie, Pam, Diane, Toby and Bailey)

- Summer programming:
 - Developed six information guides for livestock program areas.
 - Thirteen livestock workshops offered throughout the summer months.
 - Five separate farm visits to members with questions concerning livestock projects.
 - Weekly ride nights for horse members.
 - Weekly dog obedience, showmanship, and agility workshops.
 - Weekly leathercraft workshops.
 - Series of virtual cake decorating workshops.
 - Karen Crumbaker, Ag and Natural Resources Extension Agent, presented the final workshop for 2021 for the Cloverbuds: All About Birds.
 - Model rocketry workshop and practice fly day held in July.
 - Two clothing construction workshops and individual support for members offered throughout the Summer.
 - [Virtual Scrapbooking tutorials](#) for scrapbooking members offered.
 - Horse levels testing.
- Successful 2021 County Fair:
 - 270 4-H youth participated in Interview Judging on August 3
 - 1756 Class Entries across all 4-H project Areas
 - Dog Trials: 37 members exhibiting, 145 class entries
 - Static Exhibits: 310 Members Exhibiting, 474 Exhibits entered
 - Horse Show: 433 class Entries
 - Livestock Shows: 569 class Entries
 - Model Rocketry Fly Day: 20 class entries

- Fashion Revue: 18 members exhibiting, 24 class entries
 - County Shooting Competition: 146 class Entries
 - 219 members sold animals successfully in the livestock sale
 - Tabling in the McKee Building during the county Fair generated inquiries from 40 known potential new 4-H families.
 - 4-H Junior Leadership Club hosted a successful Dairy Bar concession stand as a fundraiser in the McKee Building. Total profits will be reported at the next meeting.
 - Collaborated with mobile vets around the area for vet inspections for animals entering the grounds.
 - Collaborated with CSU to achieve carcass data with junior livestock entries.
- Members representing Larimer County at the 2021 Colorado State Fair:
 - State Dog Trials: 27 members
 - Static Exhibits & Virtual Photo Contest: 229 exhibits
 - Fashion Revue: 3 senior members
 - Public Presentations: 8 members
 - Creative Cooks Contest: 4 members
 - Cake Decorating Contest: 7 members
 - Model Rocketry Fly Day: 6 members
 - Cat Show: 2 members
 - Livestock: 25 members
 - Hosted state shooting sports events 3 different locations across 5 dates.
- [September 2021 4-H newsletter](#) was shared on August 20th
- 2021 4-H Open House will be held Monday, October 18, 2021, from 5:30pm-7:30pm in the McKee Building at The Ranch.
- 2021 Achievement Night will be held November 5, 2021, 6:30 pm in the McKee Building at The Ranch.

Horticulture and Farmers' Market (Alison and Emily):

- Emily resigned from her position effective August 7, 2021 and we are evaluating the position for rehire after this market season.
 - The Larimer County Farmers' Market netted approximately \$20,000 in revenue in 2020.
 - There continues to be high demand for HOA site visits and homeowner assessments. Like Karen (see below), it has been a busier-than-normal year doing both lawn check visits and HOA assessments. Many visits that Alison has made have been focused on conversions from "typical" turf to alternative turf species, as well as overall water use.
 - Grow & Give has 76 registered participants and already hundreds of pounds of produce has been donated.
 - Master Gardener Donna Lambert was recently featured in the Loveland Reporter-Herald! https://lovelandreporterherald-co-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=146300de8_1345e96
- The Northern Colorado Library gardening classes continue through the end of the year; these are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 12:30pm via Zoom. Coming up: September 8: The Basics of Pickling with Amber Webb; October 13: Fall Planted Bulbs with Alison O'Connor; November 10: A Horticulture Wrap-up of 2021 with Amy Lentz and Alison O'Connor; December 8: Evergreens and Holiday Decor with Amy Lentz and Alison O'Connor. Registration for these classes can be found at: the [CO-Horts Blog](#).

Alison will attend the ESP National Conference in Savannah, Georgia at the end of October; she is currently the Zeta Chapter president.

Food & Nutrition (Amber)

- A partnership with CSU Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) will hire two local EFNEP educators that will be based out of our Larimer County office. This meets our community needs and includes outreach to underserved populations in both English and Spanish. Please help us distribute the job posting (in packet), ending on September 7, 2021.
- Amber will be launching a financial literacy program series in partnership with the Larimer County Human Services department. This pilot will be an additional offering to the supportive services model offered by Human Services.
- In partnership with the Food Bank of Larimer County, Amber is offering a Preserving Foods with Confidence course to Food Bank clients who have taken a Cooking Matters course offering through them. This pilot partnership is expanding on the basic culinary and nutrition literacy curriculum to include food preservation skills as well as reducing food waste in the home. The goal is to continue this offering as an add-on to future Cooking Matters programming. Amber is working with Larimer County Health Department and Larimer County Workforce Center to bring back the Food Safety Works certification offering to county restaurant workers. FSW is a commercial food safety course developed by CSU campus that carries a two-year certification.

Ag & Natural Resources (Karen):

- The last Native Plant Master course will be taught in August. Most courses and classes were filled, and participants were happy to have the opportunity to take classes this year!
- It has been a busier year than normal conducting small acreage site visits. Karen has gone out on over 20 site visits and more than half have been new small acreage property owners. With more and more people new to small acreage ownership, this trend will only continue.
- Karen visited the research plots in the Cameron Peak burn area for the two CSU Extension interns she is mentoring. CSU Source mentioned both projects in the August 2 publication. To review, the articles are, "CSU Mountain Campus update" and "Former wildland firefighter teaches, conducts research on record-breaking fires": <https://source.colostate.edu/cameron-peak-fire-one-year-later/>.
- Two radon awareness programs will be held in Spanish on September 16 and September 21, 2021. These are the first programs offered by Extension that will be given in Spanish.

Community Development (Sue & Lisa):

- Sue welcomed Cheryl Noble to LCE in the role of Community Development Coordinator. Cheryl had been doing contract work with LCE as the Senior Access Points and Market Days! Project Coordinator for over a year while she was at the Partnership for Age-Friendly Communities. She brings significant outreach, volunteer management, and communications experience to our office. Assessment findings pointed to the importance of expanding our aging work, addressing social isolation, and supporting mental health, particularly among rural communities. Cheryl will support our work in these and other areas.
- Sue and Cheryl are working on rebuilding the Senior Access Points leadership team, re-vamping outreach efforts, and redesigning the SAP website which should be ready to launch at the end of August. SAP will be featured on KRFC through interviews, public service announcements and a new web-based resources hub in the months of September and October as a result of a new partnership and grant with the NextFifty Initiative.

- Sue and Lisa (along with two community partners) have completed a Mindfulness for Community Leaders curriculum that will be piloted with FLTI alumni in September. The program will be nine weeks and will include in-person (hopefully) and online self-study modules and will conclude with a graduation celebration. The pillars include Foundations of Mindfulness, Interpersonal Connection, Trauma Resilience and Appreciation of Culture.
- Sue is partnering with the Colorado School of Public Health and serving as a preceptor this semester for two MPH Capstone students to conduct a health assessment for Extension in preparation for the rural health initiative that the CSU Board of Governors have funded to address mental health, healthy aging and preventive health throughout Colorado. Various assessments will be focused on Extension health workforce, Extension national peer programs, training and capacity building, health system partnerships, and health program evaluation.
- Sue is developing a Bohemian Fund proposal (\$30,000) to implement a new Health Navigator program for Market Days! in which a part-time navigator would support low-income older adults in three areas: social isolation, food insecurity, and resource access.
- Lisa and Laura continue to serve as Ambassadors in English/Spanish for the Larimer County Farmers' Market on the first Saturdays of the month as well as the first and last markets.
- Fourteen participants graduated from the Mi Voz FLTI Civic Learning Lab. A copy of the graduation booklet which includes an overview of the projects is in the drive.
- La Familia has been awarded a grant to provide the Mi Voz FLTI Civic Learning Lab in collaboration with FLTI Larimer County for the next two years.
- Lisa is currently serving as a steering committee member for the Local Foods, Local Places (LFLP) project. LFLP is a federal partnership program that supports community-led efforts to reinvest in existing neighborhoods, protects the environment, and improves residents' health and quality of life through the development of the local food economy.
- In light of the pandemic and youth on Zoom, FLTI has developed a youth curriculum that is ten weeks long versus 20 weeks. Both Lisa and the youth FLTI facilitators were trained on the curriculum August 25, 2021.

PRESENTATION: Karen Crumbaker, Ag and Natural Resources Agent. With CSU Extension for 15 years and Larimer County Extension for the past 12 years.

- SAM/Wildfire/NPM/Radon updates
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Radon Awareness Program: \$3k grant for radon awareness. 6 virtual programs for homeowners. Working on providing a Spanish speaking class. Joining with the City of Fort Collins to offer multiple Spanish speaking classes. Classes provide radon test kits (272) in order to test their homes.
- Native Plant Masters Program: Educates those who are interested in learning about native plants. Classes are taught outdoors, with four courses this year and 50 participants. The 2020 program was canceled due to COVID but returned in 2021. Sixteen volunteers in the program provide educational outreach to the community.
- Site Visits: One-on-one education that takes place on owner's property. Help to educate new homeowners that don't have a lot of experience with small acreage. 457 calls and emails that were related to small acreage since March 2020. Over 26 site visits this year.
 - Invasive species 101 speaker series: 4 sessions held. 491 participants.

- Wildfire Wednesday speaker series. Four virtual webinars and 555 attendees.
- Post wildfire restoration on private lands. Winter 2021 hosted two webinars.
- Cameron Peak Wildfire - helped with OEM credentialing and LCE Wildfire resource page.
- CSU Extension Internship Program.
- Thank you for your time. Open to any questions
 - Kristin: Thank you so much for your presentation and the information provided. What are some of the big concerns you see when you go on site visits?
 - Karen: Lots of questions on water issues. Defer people to the engineers within the state for those questions. Primarily the most questions I received are around pasture management from new homeowners. Help people understand grazing, weed and rainfall information and its impact on the land. Visits are usually people moving from out of state that need education on the impacts of the environment on small acreage.
 - Matt: Have you seen an increase in interest in the fire programs that you do? Do you feel like you are reaching a critical mass of those who could be influenced by increased fire risk?
 - Karen: No, I don't think I am making a big enough impact. Working with the forest service and local fire services is making some impact, but demographics and new residents moving in there is a focus and a need to educate.

ACTION:

Review and recommend approval or modifications to the 2021-2026 Larimer County CSU Extension Strategic Guidance Plan.

- i. One page summary
 - ii. Executive Summary
 - iii. Goals and objectives
- Regan: Hand over to Kerri to review.
 - Kerri: Quick overview of Strategic Plan document. Will share screen to review
 - (Review of Strategic Guidance documents provided in agenda packet)
 - This format will be used as a template for all the other counties moving forward. Any questions before we move forward with adopting?
 - Regan: On the food safety position is there a timeline to get someone in that position?
 - Kerri: In the folder was a summary of the budget requests. Staff was asked for ideas and proposals for moving the Strategic Guidance Plan forward. This includes financial requests to jumpstart some of the goals. Personnel requests are temporary positions until we can see what the cost recovery/community impact is. The food safety position is located within these requests to be hopefully filled by January 2022.
 - Matt: the \$50,000 in the budget is to make the position whole?
 - Kerri: Correct. That would be our half. Economic and Workforce Center will cover the other half.
 - Matt: Can you describe your plans for the ¾ position and how that will be made full.

- Kerri: That will be fully funded by Extension, Two-year temporary position. This position with help with existing programs that have cropped up for community needs and also to assist Sue Schneider (Health and Wellbeing). Time is needed to filter through what the needs are and the roles for Extension to fill in regards to Health and Wellbeing.
- Matt: So the money will be in hand if the budget passes to make sure this position is filled?
- Kerri: Sue did have grant money this year. The position has already been hired. This request will be to continue the position moving forward.
- Kara: Looking to make sure we have a quorum?
- Kerri: Yes, we do have enough. We have six members on the board and all we need is three people, which is what we have today.
- Regan: I ask for a motion to approve/move forward with this Strategic Guidance Plan.
- Matt: I motion to move forward
- Kara: I second
- Regan: Motion to move forward say "I".
- Matt: I
- Kara: I
- Regan: Motion has passed to adopt.
- Kara: We all know Extension is a hidden gem and I hope this helps raise awareness moving forward.
- Kristin: There is clearly a need here. Extension does a lot with the small budget you have and we get a lot of bang for our buck for what Extension provides.
- Kerri: Thank you very much. We very much appreciate it. Our staff knocks it out of the park for us.
- Kristin: Emphasis on equity and diversion is a huge focus and appears that Extension is incorporating this and is ahead of the game.

DISCUSSION:

2021 Larimer County Fair - Livestock and Open Class and use of Fair Entry software for registration

- Regan: Please give us a little background on this.
- Kerri: Fair just wrapped up and is winding down. It is always nice to check in with the Advisory Committee and give an update on how the fair went. We are still waiting on specific numbers to come in. The Ranch staff management is now taking over Open Class and fair management. This was a transition year. In Open Class we had several departments that didn't have a superintendent. Overall numbers may have been down from 2019, but still in a COVID year we weren't sad with the numbers at all.
- Kara: With Open Class the amount that was paid out for the premiums has gone down and I would like to not see that continue to happen. We are one of the lower counties in the area that are lower in the premiums. I would hate to see that go away. It is an important bonus that needs to continue.

- Kerri: After the fair of 2019 this committee talked about Open Class premiums. And the move of those dollars over to 4-H premiums. It was also discussed with the Fair Board and agreed upon (Overall 4-H). We did get some feedback and this can be put back on the table if it needs to change.
- Kara: As someone that has been a superintendent when we get the youth involved then they tend to stay involved. Regarding fair entry: going in and signing up did not work well at all. It was too confusing. I do look forward to seeing what the new plan is.
- Kerri: Absolutely. We just had that debrief meeting and that was a large topic and part of our discussion. Any other questions about county fair? One thing we did do differently that I thought went well was featuring some Extension things (Cottage Food). We had a Cottage Food pop-up. It was pretty busy and went well so we were very pleased.
- Kara: I saw it there and I thought it was great!
- Regan: Just one other comment. I thought it was still done very well despite the numbers being down. The Ranch really stepped up with the registration part. Ranch personnel really stepped up and did a great job assisting. On the record they did a really good job of supporting Open Class.
- Kerri: Thank you and I agree. I will pass on the appreciation for your support.
- Regan: Only other comment was coordinate a little better on unlocking the doors earlier, but that was a minor thing.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:32 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Andy Weakland
 September 8, 2021