



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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Extension Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 7th, 2022
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. virtually via Zoom*

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

Guest: Tony Koski

Commissioner's Office: Commissioner Kristin Stephens - Absent

Extension staff attending: Andy Weakland, Cari Brown, Kerri Rollins, Analecia Vasquez, Rachel Wildman, Lisa Auer, and Diana Castro

CALL TO ORDER: at 8:03 a.m. by Kara Rudnick

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tony Koski – Comments from vendors and customers at the Larimer County Farmers' Market are still talking about the article that was in The Coloradoan. They are opposed to the market being moved to the Powerhouse location.

AGENDA REVIEW: No additions or changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes approved with no changes.

BOARD FEEDBACK: None

COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT/COMMENTS: Kerri: we have presented a few times to the Commissioners in the last month or two. In July, a presentation was given about an intern I am supervising that is working with the Ag Advisory Board. Additionally, we have given a presentation on budget benchmarks.

INFORMATION ITEMS: (10 minutes, highlights)

Interviews are being scheduled in September for three applicants for the Extension Advisory Committee. Commissioner Stephens, Kerri and Kara will conduct the interviews.

Kara: 4-H Achievement Night is coming up on November 4, 2022. I'd also like to highlight the Grow & Give program.

Kerri: I also wanted to highlight that sales at the Farmers' Market are increasing.

Kara: Her club sold 317 drinks at the Market and completely sold out.

Regan: Concerning applicants for the committee, we only have three applicants and with Maia stepping down that puts us at four. Will this leave us with seven members at the end of the process?

Kerri: Yes, that is correct. We are working with the County Commissioners to increase applicants.

Kara: The goal is to keep adding to the pool of candidates.

Kerri: I would like to introduce Diana Castro. She was just hired to replace Tobi for our 4-H Juntos program.

Diana: Thank you. I grew up in Fort Collins and attended Poudre School District schools. We just did our first back to school night. I have a background in housing organizing and advocacy. I am excited to be here.

Kara: I would like to highlight that Sue Schneider has left Larimer County Extension and taken on a role with Extension at the state level.

Kerri: We will be refilling Sue Schneider's position. I also wanted to add that Lisa and Diana have been working hard on the Bohemian Foundation grant through CSU. If we were awarded this grant, it could bring in up to \$30,000.

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

- This fall we will be hosting our annual 4-H Open House to welcome and recruit new 4-H members. The 4-H team will be giving an overview of the program and information on joining 4-H. Current 4-H clubs and members will have booths displaying some of their projects from the year and visit with prospective new families about the benefits of the 4-H program. The event will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the 4-H McKee Building at The Ranch.
- Please plan to join us in celebrating the achievements of our 4-H members and leaders in the 2021-2022 4-H project year! The annual 4-H Achievement Night will be held on

November 4, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall at the 4-H McKee Building at The Ranch.

Horticulture and Farmers' Market (Alison and Rachel):

(Horticulture)

- Applications for the 2023 Colorado Master Gardener program open on September 1, 2022 and will close on October 16, 2022. Anyone who is interested in the program is welcome to apply. The process includes the application, a background and reference check, and an interview. We have received three applications already. Training will begin in January 2023.
- The Larimer County Master Gardeners will celebrate Dr. Jim Klett's, CSU Horticulture Professor and Extension Specialist, 42-year career with CSU on September 14, 2022. The celebration will be at the CSU Trial Gardens at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Klett has been a strong supporter and partner with Larimer County Extension. Dr Klett will retire at the end of the year.
- Alison will attend the National Master Gardener Coordinator Conference in Savannah, Georgia, September 19-22, 2022. She will be presenting on The Ranch Demonstration Gardens and the ongoing research there.
 - The Grow & Give program has 73 registered gardeners in Larimer County (since August 29, 2022). Donations to the program are close to 2,000 pounds. You can monitor real-time statewide donations by [clicking here](#). Check out total pounds, number of donation events, and produce types being donated.
- Several staff and State specialists will be presenting with the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery. These will be weekend or evening presentations on a variety of topics. Staff from our office include Amber, Karen, Rachel and Alison.

(Farmers' Market)

- We are right in the middle of the peak market season. We have all our produce vendors in full swing.
- Our best sales day thus far was August 20, 2022, with over \$85,000 in total sales.

Food & Nutrition (Amber and Analecia):

(Retail Food Safety Program)

- Six Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) classes have been completed since June, with an average of five participants per class.
- The first Spanish interpreted Food Safety Works (FSW) class is scheduled for September 14, 2022.
- The first Spanish interpreted Certified Food Protection Manager class is scheduled for September 26, 2022.
- Analecia conducted the Food Safety Works class for Colorado Early Colleges in the Food Science Program. This is the first class ever taught and the school is working to have it included each year as part of their curriculum. She is creating interactive group activities for each chapter for both FSW and CFPM.
- Analecia will be presenting to the Board of County Commissioners in November with statistics on the new commercial food certification trainings and partnerships.

(Family Consumer Science Program)

- We are in the midst of the food preservation season, so classes are in full swing! We are offering a suite of classes in person as well as virtually. They will be continuing through October.
- Amber is working with the Aspen Club, AARP and Market Days! clients to host classes for the older adult audiences. Classes are being offered in person and virtually. They include: Nutrition for Older Adults, the Mediterranean Diet, and Preserving Food with Confidence.
- Master Food Safety Advisors (MFSA) are at the Farmers' Market twice a month to offer support to consumers on food safety, food preservation, and conducting yearly pressure gauge checks as recommended by Extension.

Ag & Natural Resources (Karen):

- The High Plains Environmental Center and Red Mountain Open Space Native Plant Master courses took place in August. One additional course was held in May and four special classes were held in June and July. There were 58 participants in the 2022 NPM courses and special classes, with 23 volunteers.
- Extension is once again partnering with the City of Fort Collins Healthy Homes Program in September to hold two radon awareness virtual classes in both English and Spanish. This is the second year we will hold this program in Spanish.
- Karen has made 23 small acreage site visits through mid-August, with additional site visits planned. Following a site visit, she provides the property owner with a report highlighting the actions they can take on their property to manage weeds, grazing pressure, etc., with the goal to educate the property owner on how to improve management practices.
- Karen has been mentoring two CSU students through the CSU Extension Internship Program. One project involved grazing management on Roberts Ranch, the other focused on understanding the small mammal community resilience following the Cameron Peak wildfire.

Community Development (Sue, Lisa and Cheryl):

- Sue's last day with Larimer County Extension was September 1, 2022. She accepted a position with CSU Extension as the State Health Specialist and will be working to support the new rural health initiative, as well as building out statewide plans for health extension. She is looking forward to supporting Larimer County Extension and its health initiatives in the future! Cheryl will be helping Senior Access Points, Market Days!, some grandparents alliance duties while we seek to refill Sue's position.
- Diana Castro has been hired as the new STEM/Juntos 4-H program coordinator.
- Lisa, Diana and Ruben attended the Poudre High School back to school night on August 31, 2022. They presented information on the Juntos program and 15 families filled out an interest form.
- Lisa is working alongside Fuerza Latina to bring the Aging Mastery program to Larimer County this fall
- FLTI is collaborating with United Neighbors/Vecinos Unidos (new non-profit formed that bought Parklane Mobile Home Park and renamed it Nueva Vida) to look at

community governance and providing facilitation and training to the community members who live there. This is a partnership with CU School of Law.

PRESENTATION: Aging programming, Cheryl Noble (refer to presentation on Healthy Aging Programs: Senior Access Points, Market Days!, future projects)

- A. Kerri: Do you reuse the Market Days! bags?
- B. Cheryl: Bags are reusable for the participant, but we do not get them back and reuse. Bags were donated by our sponsors.
- C. Matt: Are the number of bags per month dictated by the number of sign ups or what is the capacity?
- D. Cheryl: It is based on the grant money that we received which was \$20,000. We break that up by \$15 per bag in order to figure how many we can distribute per week.
- E. Matt: So, if you had more funding then you could increase the number of bags?
- F. Cheryl: Yes, that is correct.
- G. Kerri: This was discussed with the Commissioners as well as a way to take care of those on the waitlist in order to fill the need.
- H. Irene: Have you identified any challenges of possibly expanding this program during the off season when the Market is not running?
- I. Cheryl: We have connected with some of the growers, but we are looking at services that might be able to provide education, contact with people, any way to get resources to those in need.

DISCUSSION:

A. 2023 Committee Workplan Ideas

Kerri: The Commissioners are asking each advisory board and committee to develop a basic workplan by the end of the year.

Kara: We can also use this for our new members to show them what it is that we do. This will be a good way to build our plan for the year, e.g., Farmers' Market, Powerhouse 2, County fair, etc.

Regan: A workplan to me would be what we want to accomplish. What is the timeframe?

Kerri: The calendar year 2023 is our timeframe. I will get a template that should tell us a little more. I know we have discussed our Strategic Guidance and what we have accomplished so that could be one. Showcase has been one on the list for while. Fair education, etc. some of the bigger things we do.

B. Powerhouse 2 update (community outreach, consultant scope of work includes feasibility, grant writing, architectural recommendations)

Kerri: It continues to move slowly forward. At the last meeting community engagement was discussed as the next step. Lisa invited Fuerza Latina and the biggest takeaway from them is they would like to see a coop format to run ideas such as the Mercado. At this point we are not looking to move the Farmers' Market but are just discussing how we can be involved in the community. We are still having conversations with the consultant about various tasks, one being grant writing to secure more funding. We are also looking at a feasibility study to determine if two markets can work together with different goals within a mile of each other. Also, we

will be looking to Rachel to do an end of the market survey to vendors as well. An opening date for Powerhouse 2 would be in 2025.

Rachel: Yes, we do an end of market survey every year. This year it will be more focused on what challenges they see as a market as a whole, in addition to what they value in the current market set up.

Matt: Is the Mercado going to be year-round?

Kerri: I do not think we are there yet, so I am not sure.

C. 2022 County fair overview numbers - Roles and responsibilities at Fair this year: Open Class, livestock, and McKee; working on defining for next year

There were a total of 1010 exhibitors with 5,848 (as compared to 5,600 entries in 2021).

Livestock had 411 exhibitors (as compared to 399 in 2021) and the livestock sale grossed \$927,391 (as compared to \$809,940 in 2021). The champion steer sold for \$46,000.

There were 421 youth General/FCS exhibitors (as compared to 341 in 2021).

Open Class had 679 exhibitors and 1242 entries (as compared to 509 exhibitors and 898 entries in 2021).

Groundbreaking at the new 4-H Youth and Community Livestock Arena building was held at the County fair on August 7, 2022. The next Master Plan effort will be the kitchen at the McKee Building.

Kara: I am so excited that we had an increase in the number of exhibitors and entries.

Kerri: We continue to be involved in The Ranch masterplan, although Extension moving there has dropped off the table. The first building to have broken ground is the livestock arena.

Lisa: Big kudos to Bailey, Katie, Pam and Diane for all of the hard work that they put in.

D. Showcase topics/agenda/dates/idea gathering for next year – Cari Brown

Cari: After Showcase last year we asked for feedback. Some video topic ideas, which of course are very changeable, are: Juntos, Native Plant Master program, and Food Systems connections.

Kara: I love the connections idea. I think this office has a great opportunity to highlight food systems.

Regan: Are we planning on having a face-to-face Showcase?

Cari: The tentative plan right now is to hold a hybrid meeting at the Administrative Services Building (formerly known as the courthouse) at 200 W. Oak Street. They have a better set up. The agenda would be to have the our Committee Chair, Kara, presenting some opening remarks, Kerri giving some opening remarks, share the video, and closing remarks.

Regan: I like the video idea and we can get more attendance and a wider audience than with a dinner.

Kerri: I would suggest we do it at the administrative building around 8:30 a.m. and we can provide a breakfast for those that show up. Are we still looking at a date in March?

Cari: I think that March is early enough and would work.

Kerri: Let's do March 1, 2023. I think that will work and we can reserve the room right now.

E. Climate Smart and Future-Ready – work group invitation from BOCC due September 23, 2022

Kara: We have received an invitation from the Board of County Commissioners to serve on their working group. Matt will be assisting with this.

Matt: I always have had an interest in this. I very much am interested in serving in this role.

Kara: Great, and I am also willing to serve as the backup if on one else wants to.

Regan: I can back up Matt in this role.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:47 a.m.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: November 2, 2022, at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Weakland
September 7, 2022

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Larimer County will provide reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with a disability who need assistance. Services can be arranged with at least seven (7) business days' notice. Please email us at aweakland@larimer.org or call (970) 619-6002 or Relay Colorado 711. "Walk-in" requests for auxiliary aids and services will be honored to the extent possible but may be unavailable if advance notice is not provided.