



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

Extension Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2024
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. virtually via Zoom

Advisory Board members attending: Kara Rudnick, Dick Christensen, Margaret Long, Kelly Pollard, JoAnne Herkenhoff, Scott Hapner

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner Kristin Stephens was not present

Extension staff attending: Cary Weiner, Andy Weakland, Alison O'Connor, Maggie Switzer, Christa Timmerman, Jess Callen, Cari Brown, Amber Webb

CALL TO ORDER: at 8:02 a.m. by Kara Rudnick.

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved as is.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: September 4, 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

BOARD FEEDBACK: None.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS: (10 minutes, highlights)

4-H: (Rachel, Bailey, Britney)

- The 4-H Open House was on October 9, 2024, and contact information was collected from 75 new families. Most of the attendees heard about the event from social media or friends and family members.
- The Fall Festival was held at the Farmers' Market on October 26, 2024. There were approximately 85 visitors to the festival.
- Achievement Night is on November 8, 2024, and will showcase the accomplishments of our members this year.

Ag & Natural Resources: (Jess)

- Jess is applying for WSARE Local Education and Demonstration Grant. This will fund creation of a report and documentary of the Citizen Science Soil Health Project and fund soil health field days for the next two years.
- Maggie and Jess are working on getting the word out about the Farm2LocalBiz Networking event scheduled for November 12, 2024.
- Jess is finishing up the remaining scheduled site visits for the season.
- The Larimer County Ag Producer Survey report is finished and Jess is working on creating meetings to address producers' challenges with the correct departments.

Community Development: (Lisa)

- The Aging Mastery class in Spanish is in full swing with nine participants. Cheryl Noble presented her Advanced Care presentation to the class on October 28, 2024.
- The Aging Mastery alumni group continues to meet monthly.
- FLTI provides the agenda, notes, facilitation and interpretation for the monthly Nueva Vida community meetings. The meetings are focused on park needs and skills needed for community governance.
- A civic education collaborative group has been established with members from the city, county and local nonprofits to understand what civic engagement and leadership programming is being provided and where gaps might be and how to work together.
- Lisa is currently in conversation with La Familia/Mi Voz about a 2025 FLTI civic learning lab.

Farmers' Market (Maggie)

- The Farmers Market wrapped up an amazing 2024 season on October 26th. There was a \$94,000 increase in overall vendor sales + nutrition programs (and counting!), with \$1.8 million in overall sales. There are still some vendors missing check out forms and the final vendor sales data is in progress.
- We successfully navigated the Produce Bonus pilot as one of a handful of markets in the state to implement the program, with ten of our 10 of our produce vendors participating. The goal for 2025 is to have 100% of our produce vendors participating in pilot.
- We successfully navigated losing Oak Street due to construction without significant decline in sales or attendance.
- We hosted more than 24 different nonprofit/community groups from the area to be present at the market, as well as 24 different/unique musical groups/musicians.
- We had several successful monthly special events such as: Pride, National Farmers' Market Week, Soil Health Day and the 4-H Fall Festival.
- Maggie is currently pivoting to focus on the Farm2LocalBiz Event with Jess.
- Maggie will be taking on more leadership with the Market Days for Older Adults program for 2025.

Food Safety & Nutrition (Amber and Analecia)

Retail Food Safety:

- Overall: total participants = 124 with 83% passing rate(12 more participants signed up through the end of 2024). There is one private CFPM class scheduled and one Spanish interpreted class with at least five participants and the possibility of adding more.
- Vouchers: 66 handed out by Environmental Health Specialists. Two were redeemed, but 12 signed up for classes through the end of 2024, with 12 additional full class spots available. Five Food Safety Works vouchers are signed up for a private class.

Family and Consumer Science:

- Amber finished a successful annual series of food preservation classes that were in person (hands-on) and virtual. Classes ran from July through October, 2024.
- With the assistance of two Master Food Safety Volunteers and support of Cari Brown, Amber recorded a short webinar entitled “Preserving Foods for County Fair”. It will be made available on our website.
- Currently piloting the “Healthy You” eight week class series with UCHealth Aspen Club members in Windsor.
- Amber attended the National Extension Association of Family Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) annual conference in Tuscon, AZ in mid-September. She has been serving as the Colorado chapter Membership Chair of NEAFCS since 2020.

Health and Well-Being: (Christa and Cheryl) PRESENTATION

Horticulture: (Alison)

- There were a total of 49 applications for the Master Gardener program and Alison interviewed 15 individuals; of those, 10 were selected as 2025 trainees. There are four transfers entering the program from out-of-state (who will also be taking the Colorado Green School training).
- The annual Master Gardener banquet will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024 in the morning with the location to be determined; advisory committee members are welcome to attend.
- Master Gardener training begins November 4, 2024, and will continue through the end of March 2025.
- We are gearing up to celebrate the Colorado Master Gardener 50th anniversary in 2025! The Larimer County program started with two trainees (who commuted to Denver for training) and has grown to 130 volunteers.
 - Our longest tenured Master Gardener is Susan McGill, who is also the longest-serving volunteer in the state. She has been a CMG since 1979. [Read more about Susan and the program here.](#)
- Alison will teach at the Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Association Conference and do a wreath-making workshop for Loveland Youth Gardeners in December.
- Evergreen Elders completed ten classes for older adults in 2024, with the - the last class will be held at Good Samaritan in Loveland in December.

General/Other (Cary)

- Open Class premiums at County Fair
- Communicating volunteer opportunities (Andy)

- Newsletter sign-up
- Rural engagement update
- College & Career/Juntos Program Coordinator position update
- Weld interim director responsibilities

PRESENTATION: Health and Well-Being (Christa and Cheryl)
(Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation for further information).

- Healthy Aging
- Nature and Health
- Climate Smart Future Ready
- Radon Grant
- Market Days for Older Adults
- Senior Access Points
- Advanced Care Planning

PRESENTATION: Larimer County Extension Budget (Andy)

- Budget 101
- Where do we get our funding?
- Programs that we fund
- Larimer County General Funds
- CSU: Salary Splits
- In House Funding
- Savings Account

DISCUSSION: None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Officer elections
- Other suggestions
- Kara: Next meeting scheduled for January 1, 2025. Suggestion to move the meeting to the next Tuesday, January 7, 2025

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Weakland
November 6, 2024