



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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Extension Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 2nd, 2022
8am – 10:00 am virtually via Zoom*

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

Guest: Heidi Pruess, Tony Koski

Commissioner's Office: Commissioner Kristin Stephens

Extension staff attending: Kerri Rollins, Andy Weakland, Cari Brown, Alison O'Connor, Lisa Auer, Amber Webb, Bailey Schilling

AGENDA approved as written.

- CALL TO ORDER at 8:01am by Kara Rudnick
- PUBLIC COMMENT: No Comment.
- AGENDA REVIEW: No additions or changes to the agenda. Motion to approve by Irene. Regan second. Agenda approved.
- APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Moved to approve by Kara Rudnick; Motion to approve by Irene and second by Regan. Motion passed and minutes approved.
- BOARD FEEDBACK - Trends and issues you see in the community? Other items?
 - Kara – Any comments? No comments, move forward.
- COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT/COMMENTS:

- Kristin – Equity, diversity and inclusion board has been formed. Meeting in March. Kudos to Extension group for starting some of the equity work. Also would like to recognize Amelia Macey as well. Linda Hoffman is leaving as county manager. Beginning the process of looking for her replacement, will likely name an interim county manager while we are searching for a replacement. There will be opportunities for input from the community as well as within departments. Fair board interviews have taken place. We are hiring a new fair coordinator since staff at ranch will be taking over the majority of the duties from Extensions. Excited to hear from all of you. Thank you for all you do.
- INFORMATION ITEMS: (10 minutes, highlights)
 - Kara – Exchange club fundraiser (\$5500). Amelia Macey has been recognized. Please take a moment to look over her poultry book. I would like to highlight the farmer's market. Musicians will be welcomed back this year. If you got your welcome packet, you will have seeds in there as well. Please look over the individual sections of the agenda for further highlights.
 - Amber – Food and Nutrition update. New position announcement for food safety. We will be hiring someone on to teach food protection management courses. Will be making offer by the end of the week. We are working with the health department as well as work force in order to support the position. Working with agent in Garfield County to update our food safety works curriculum. I have also been working in partnership with the human services office. Working with neighbor to neighbor to offer these services to clients. Vindicate foods has reached out to me as well to help develop food safety volunteer training. Worked with Cari Brown to help promote.
 - Kara – Does any of the staff have a 2 minute update to highlight?
 - Bailey – Amelia Macey and the poultry book was fabulous and will help the program out a lot! Book is the best resource that we have in terms of literature. Exchange club and raised \$5500. (please reference 4-H Section informational items)
 - Alison – Taught a class yesterday with AARP. Front range Hort agent launching a 12-week gardening series. (please reference Horticulture Section informational items)
 - Lisa – FLTI Mi Voz adult classes has started. Going great. 14 youth enrolled. Thank you to Irene for helping with interpretation. (please reference Community Development Section informational items)
- **Hiring updates** - Program Coordinators for Retail Food Safety and for Farmers' Market.
- **4-H:** (Katie, Pam, Diane, Toby and Bailey)
 - 2022 Enrollment update:
 - *21-22 4-H enrollment will close on March 15th, 2022*
 - Total member enrollment is currently at 789, which is exactly what our total membership was after enrollment closed in 2021.

- 705 regular members
- 84 Cloverbuds
- Volunteer enrollment is currently at 253. For comparison, we had 262 leaders enrolled when enrollment closed in 2021.
- Katie & Bailey hosted a successful Annual 4-H Leader Training with our organizational leaders on February 2nd virtually (due to weather)
- Topics covered were expectations of 4-H volunteers, new member support, the experiential learning model, enrollment, member support and 4-H team goals for 2022.
- Within new member support, we shared the approach one of our clubs is successfully taking with supporting new members, which involves three components: (1) a new member leader role specifically focused on supporting new members and their families in experiencing a successful & enjoyable first 4-H year, (2) consistent ongoing support & communication with new 4-H member & families including an initial orientation with those families separate from the regular club meeting, (3) peer mentorship support through pairing both new members and new 4-H parents with experienced members & parents with similar project interests. We encouraged all clubs to work on strengthening their support of new members using this approach. This is part of our team's goal of increasing enrollment & member retention.
- Exchange Club Dinner & Auction was held successfully on February 5th. Attendance was high and club raised about \$5500 in donations to support travel and hosting this year. They have partnered with a 4-H club in Shenandoah, Virginia for this two year exchange cycle and we are preparing to host them here in Colorado this summer.
- The Leadership Development Conference for Colorado 4-H seniors was held in Denver in person successfully. We had eight youth attend, including six members of the Junior Leadership Club, our District II secretary, and our Junior Leadership Club president and secretary. Two volunteers chaperoned the event. Youth were thrilled to be back in person with their peers from across the state and growing as leaders through the programming offered.
- 4-H 101 virtual session on February 9th:
- This year we are offering two 4-H 101 sessions to help new 4-H members and families learn about the 4-H program and have the foundation they need for a successful first year in 4-H. This is part of our team's goal of increasing new enrollments and member retention.
- Katie Daywalker hosted a virtual 4-H 101 session for new 4-H member and families on February 9th. 22 families attended and the recording will be shared with other new families.
- A second 4-H 101 session will be offered in-person by Katie on March 17th at The Ranch. Interested families can [register here](#).
- One of our senior 4-H members, Amelia Macy, has successfully published a new 4-H poultry manual, which has been adopted by Colorado 4-H as the official state poultry manual. Amelia is the president of her club, Harmony Hustlers, past president of the Junior Leadership Club, current secretary of District II, Junior Poultry Superintendent, and active in leadership in her high school as well. When the pandemic began she took the initiative to begin working on a manual on her own after checking with our Poultry Key Leader, and she went above and beyond anyone's imagination or expectations by creating one of the most thorough and beautiful 4-H manuals many of us have seen before. On February 15th, the BOCC recognized her for her accomplishments at their Admin Matters Meeting.
- [Amelia's poultry manual](#)
- [Recording of the BOCC meeting where Amelia was recognized](#) (starts at 44:30)
- Livestock field day & MQA certification was successfully held on 2/19

- 81 families signed in. Some Additional families who didn't sign-in and came to walk-through and refresh their knowledge even if not required this year.
- Attendees came from Larimer, Boulder, & Weld counties.
- Held 5 workshops in addition to MQA cert - 12-25 members attended workshop
 - Beef Weigh Day was held 2/22 at The Ranch
 - Katie is working in partnership with Buena Vida Farm and the Colorado State 4-H team to develop a SPIN (special interest) 4-H program called "Niños: ¡Verduras!"
- Funded by grant received from Colorado Department of Agriculture's HR133 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program in the amount of \$29,800.
 - Larimer County 4-H is hosting a 4-H Dog Expo on March 19th in partnership with Boulder County 4-H. This will be a full-day opportunity for 4-H youth statewide to attend with educational opportunities to promote responsible dog ownership, build their skills across disciplines in the project (obedience, showmanship, rally, & agility), connect with AKC experts, and support a successful experience in the 4-H dog project. The event will also have educational opportunities for parents & volunteers to share knowledge and skills to best support positive youth development and growth of youth in the project. 4-H members & volunteers should enroll in 4-H online. Interested parents can contact Katie Daywalker to register (kdaywalker@larimer.org).
 - Record Book resources
- We are launching a wonderful series of videos created by volunteer, Mary Kirsten Wolf, to support our youth across projects in Family Consumer Sciences, Natural Resources, & General projects.
 - Upcoming events:
 - March 4 - *Sheep & Goat orientation* for members in Sheep & Goat projects
 - **March 4 - [4-H Carnival hosted by the Larimer County 4-H Foundation](#)**
 - This is a fundraiser for our Foundation, which supports our 4-H program and members financially across projects and programs. **We invite the community to attend & support 4-H!**
 - March 9 - [Public Speaking Contest Orientation & Workshop](#) (this contest is open to all 4-H members, including Cloverbuds)
 - March 17 - [4-H 101 session for new 4-H members](#)
 - March 25-27 *Beef camp* for Beef members
 - March 21-24 *Mega Meeting* - Annual statewide 4-H professional development opportunity for 4-H agents which our agents will be attending
 - March 25-27 *Beef camp* for Beef project members
- **Horticulture and Farmers' Market (Alison):**
 - The Farmers' Market Coordinator position attracted 27 applications. Six were interviewed by the search committee and two finalists were interviewed by the committee and staff. References are being checked.
 - Farmers' Market vendor applications close on March 25; all applicants will be screened and selected the first week of April. The market has received 91 applications to date.

- Because of an anonymous donation, the market will welcome back musicians in 2022 - scheduling will start in mid-March.
- The horticulture ProGreen Expo was held February 1-4, 2022 in Denver; Alison presented on three topics (Woody Plant ID, Turfgrass ID, and common landscape issues) and also took several classes on the latest research and updates.
- Alison has done numerous public presentations, including seed starting, gardening myths, plants for dry shade, top waterwise perennials, companion plants for daylilies, and newcomer gardening.
- The Master Gardener vegetable research trials will continue in 2022 with a focus on bell peppers and vegetables for containers.
- The 2019-2021 CMG tomato trial information was made more widely available via a planned PR campaign by Cari Brown.

- **Food & Nutrition** (Amber)

- Verbal update + more information on Showcase video
- New position announcement! Program Coordinator for Food Safety
- Partnership with Health Department and Economic Workforce Development
- Will be teaching and proctoring Certified Food Protection Manager courses through NEHA
- Food Safety Works curriculum updated and converted to virtual format to be more equitable for restaurant workers. Spanish version coming soon.
- Offering virtual financial literacy series through partnership with Larimer County Human Services
- Worked with community partner Vindeket Foods to provide food safety education to clients through social media, Extension website and onsite materials. Developing food safety training for volunteers.

- **Ag & Natural Resources** (Karen):

- Colorado Building Farmers/Ranchers 8-week course began on January 12, with six participants taking part in the hybrid course.
- Participating on the Larimer County Climate Smart Task Force.
- 2022 Native Plant Master program. There will be three courses and three classes. Courses will be taught at High Plains Environmental Center, Lory State Park and Red Mountain Open Space.
- Through a grant with CDPHE, six virtual radon classes were held in January and February. Each participant received a free short-term test kit to test their home.
- CSU Extension Internship - Mentor for two internships: (1) Roberts Ranch Grazing Plan, Implementation, Livestock Management; (2) Small Mammal Communities as Indicators of Ecosystem Health in Cameron Peak Burn Area. Interviewed and selected students for internships.

- **Community Development** (Sue & Lisa)

- Sue is partnering with the Health Department and CO School of Public Health in developing a data dashboard to support decision making throughout Larimer County as well as training and engaging public health students.

- Sue is partnering with the Health Dept and a number of organizations to plan a mental health summit in April in support of building collaborations around county-wide mental health priorities..
 - Sue is working with a CO School of Public Health capstone student to develop a menu of public health training modules to help build capacity for Extension's statewide rural health initiative. This might lead to developing training modules in partnership with CSU Online,
 - Sue has been invited to present on Extension's aging initiatives at the Colorado Municipal League conference in June with Jarett Hughe, the Governor's Senior Policy Advisor on Aging. This is a follow up presentation from the CCI conference in December.
 - The FLTI/MI Voz adult and FLTI youth class began last week. The adult class is offered in a Language Justice English/Spanish model with interpretation provided by Irene Romsa. There are 11 enrolled adults. The youth cohort has 14 participants enrolled ages 12-17 across various schools within PSD.
 - Lisa has been invited to attend the community engagement alignment effort by the county.
 - Emails will go out on Friday regarding a stakeholder/community partner meeting to be held at the end of March on bringing the 4-H Juntos program to Larimer County. If you are interested in attending, please email Lisa @auerlm@larimer.org.
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- **PRESENTATION:** Heidi Pruess, Climate Smart & Sustainability Program Manager
 - Kara – Introducing Heidi, program manager for the climate smart initiative for the county
 - Kerri – Thank you Heidi, she has been here for less than a year helping to highlight the climate smart program.
 - Heidi – Thank you for the welcome. I will go ahead and give the presentation and then hopefully open it up for questions after.
 - (PRESENTATION – Please Reference PowerPoint Slides)
 - Lisa – Are these available in English and Spanish?
 - Heidi – Online there is Spanish version
 - Matt – I have a comment. I didn't notice carbon sequestration in the presentation but within extension we have programs that address this. Invasive annuals is a component that is prominent that could be addressed in some of the small acreage interactions that this group engages with. There are fairly obvious connection between climate and Extension. I applaud what you are doing and working with Extension. Just wanted to highlight that this is exceptionally important.
 - Heidi – Thank you Matt. In addition to this external facing plan there is also an effort to create an internal plan as well. Extension will hopefully play a role in this plan as there are lots of opportunities both internally and externally to address your comments.
 - Kara – In some of the educational materials are there some that are youth focused?
 - Heidi – Yes. One of the workshops that I am doing is a youth only workshop. We did try and create a less technical but still meaningful way that they can provide their feedback. We will be focusing on some of the information gaps that we can

focus on first. I am so excited for you to ask that question so that I have someone I can reach out to discuss youth interaction.

- Kara – At one point Fossil had some type of a climate change club
- Heidi – Yes, it is called FRESH. They did reach out to us so we have had some dialogue.
- Kerri – Through 4-H in past years we have done the preparedness initiative and Kara's son participated in that. We just haven't gotten back to get that training out again. We have run that a couple of years in the past and the youth enjoyed it. Karen Crumbaker is our Ag and Nat resources agent that is actively participation on Heidi's meetings so maybe Karen can help assist us in learning more.
- Kara – Heidi thank you so much for the presentation.

- **DISCUSSION:**

- Review of the Power House 2 tour and information
 - Kara – Now we will move into our discussion. We will have a review of our Powerhouse Tour. Who would like to discuss?
 - Kerri – I can give a quick recap. I copied and past the PowerPoint for reference in to our meeting folder. Powerhouse is interested in making a community space at the north college location. Talked about needing an MOU with them to figure out more logistics. The tour – important to familiarize us with the space and figure out usage for future involvement. Process wise we have not had a staff meeting to talk about the tour.
 - Kara – I hope that this is a discussion point this month for the Extension Staff. Irene what did you see?
 - Irene – I was very appreciative of Power House just opening their doors. They are genuinely interested in engaging with their community. A true interested in connecting at an early stage. I think it's a great opportunity and connecting them with Latino's representatives in that area. Want to give the Extension team a chance to discuss first.
 - Kristin – There seems to be a lot of excitement there. Building itself will be energy efficient with new technologies. I think there are opportunities there and as much as we can take advantage of that we should. Kerri is right we may need to look at any costs associated with it. The Urban Renewal authority is planning on engaging with the Power House to see if there can be a partnership where they could also help financially. Really fun to see the type of work they are doing there.
 - Kara – Any other comments? Thank you.
 - Kerri – In general what do you feel like our goals could be from our board to take back to staff?
 - Irene – I just want to add something on the personal note. I would hate for us as Extension to pass on this opportunity to be the for front of innovation. This will be a dynamic opportunity and I believe would serve us well to be involved in some way.
 - Regan – I just go back to our original discussion at our last meeting. We want to be there as Extension and take advantage of our opportunities but at the same time

make sure our Farmers Market at our current location is adequate in terms of location. Its going to be a balance. I do this is as an opportunity for Extension as a hole.

- Kara – I agree with those things. Excited and innovative opportunities.
- Matt – I agree as well. Being in on the ground floor. There are definitely micro-opportunities to partner with them.
- Kara – Next meeting I hope that we have some more info from the staff as well as from the Urban Renewal team.
- Board recruitment plan, 2/24 - 4/21 applications open
 - Kara – Before moving forward I just wanted to thank Cari Brown on her energy and professionalism.
 - Kerri – Window has opened for board recruitment for the majority of the county boards. Last time we spoke about board recruitment and Cari putting together a draft plan. I ask her to put together some ideas. We can have up to 12 people. We don't have to have that many. We have a great core group already. Cari if you just want to take us through some of your ideas.
 - Cari – (Refer to Attachment Document: DRAFT - BOARD APPLICATION CAMPAIGN) – Document is updated to highlight board comments and recommendations.
 - Kerri – Can Paula coordinate all the board members getting together for a group photo?
 - Cari – Please watch out for some emails from me in regard to recruiting. Personal connection is huge when reaching out into the community to recruit members.
 - Matt – I would agree with that statement in terms of outreach. We all have connections. The outward facing component of extension would likely be our best option. Also discussing translating we may want to consider hearing impaired as well and the entire suite of our community.
 - Kara – Thank you Matt for that.
 - Regan – I was thinking at today's showcase if we could announce and send a flyer to everyone that was invited to the showcase.
 - Kara – Any other comments?
 - Kerri – Budget pie charts to the May meeting. Plan on doing this once a year. I also would like to review the bi-laws and do that once a year.
 - Kara – Next scheduled meeting is May 4th. We will try and do it again in this manner. We will leave up in the air for now. Towards end of April we will send out a RSVP and poll to see how we would like to hold the meeting. Motion to adjourn.
 - Regan – I motion to adjourn.
 - Irene – I second.
 - Kara – We are adjourned.

K. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 5/4/2022: 8:00am - 10:00am

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Weakland
March 2nd, 2022