



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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

Extension Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. virtually via Zoom

Advisory Board members attending: Kara Rudnick, Matt Holloran, Kelly Pollard, K-Lynn Cameron, Regan Thomas

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner Kristin Stephens - not present.

Extension staff attending: Cary Weiner, Andy Weakland, Alison O'Connor, Cari Brown, Analecia Vasquez, Maggie Switzer, Christa Timmerman, Jess Callen, Diana Castro Gonzalez

CALL TO ORDER: at 8:01 a.m. by Kara Rudnick.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda is approved.

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

BOARD FEEDBACK: Trends and issues in the community? Other items?

K-Lynn: I just want to thank the Farmers' Market staff for not increasing the price for local food vendors at the market. This is much appreciated.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT/COMMENTS:

Cary: Commissioner Stephens cannot be here today, she recognizes that she has not been able to make a number of the meetings lately. I thought it was nice of her to try and find time to meet with staff and our committee chair. We have set up a meeting on April 9, 2024. I wanted to reach out to committee members to see if there are any items that they would like to be brought up during this meeting.

Matt: If we can get an update on the climate change initiative that would be great. I have been involved with this, but my role is on an advisory committee and I haven't received a

a lot of feedback so I would be interested in an update.

Cary: We can go ahead and add that to the feedback. Jess may have some more updates on this.

Jess: Yes, Climate Smart Future Ready is now at the point of rolling out to the champions part of the group to move forward with their respective responsibilities. They will have a website that is more public facing at the end of March. Champions will be going out to get a baseline for the metrics that will be posted.

Kara: Are the commissioners involved with the MOU between Extension and The Ranch?

Cary: Not directly. As far as I know we only have a building use agreement and not an MOU.

We recently updated our agreement with the Mckee building as well as the new facility.

Connor McGrath and I both signed off on those agreements about a month ago. We have a meeting coming up this Friday, March 8, 2024, to continue to work through issues we currently have with The Ranch. I acknowledge that there have been issues in the past between The Ranch and 4-H. I will be sure to bring those issues to the meeting.

Kara: I would like to request information about continued budget support for Extension and Commissioner Stephen's thoughts about it.

INFORMATION ITEMS: (10 minutes, highlights)

4-H: (Rachel, Bailey, Pam, Diane and Diana)

- The enrollment deadline for participation in the Larimer County Fair this year was February 29, 2024.

- Livestock camps and project workshops are underway.

- We will be sending two delegates to Citizen Washington Focus in June.

- The 4-H Dog Expo hosted by Larimer County is scheduled on April 7, 2024.

- Cary: There are 800 members that have signed up. This is about 20-30 less than the previous year.

Ag & Natural Resources: (Jess)

- Leading the first Climate Smart Future Ready soil health action committee meeting on March 6, 2024. We will be meeting with producers, NRCS, Conservation District, RMFU, and CSU soil health programs.

- Created Google Calendar on Farmers/Ranchers webpage on Extension website for producers to know about upcoming events and grant opportunities.

- Attended and volunteered at Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association conference February 26-28, 2024.

- Editing Master Naturalist geomorphology and geology course.

- Jess: One thing I did not add was that I will have an intern this summer to assist with some upcoming projects.

Community Development: (Lisa)

- Larimer County Extension collaborated with local partners to support the Community Language Cooperative in hosting a 4 day interpreter training at no cost to community members. Over twenty multilingual participants attended the training.

- The FLTI MiVoz Civic Learning Lab will be hosting its third session this week. There are 18 participants enrolled in the class. The 10 session lab will be provided in an English/Spanish language justice model. This year the class will be going to the state capitol.

- The Spanish Aging Mastery class is set to have their first Alumni Group meeting in March.

- The Larimer County Extension Office received a 30 set interpreter kit in January. The kit was utilized at Showcase and is available for check out to community partners. It will be utilized this week at an ISACC event on the 15th.

- Extension has secured funds from the City of Fort Collins to support language accessible programming including translation and interpretation.

- Cary: Lisa is currently focusing on her Civic Learning Lab. She has been doing a lot of work with this as well as obtaining funds from the City of Fort Collins to support her work.

Farmers' Market: (Maggie)

- As of March 4, 2024, the market has received 133 applications, with 11 of them being incomplete. The breakdown of the applications are as follows: alcohol/fermented beverages (3), crafts and art (45), hot ready to eat foods (3), nonprofit, which is different from a nonprofit tabling booth (1), raw agricultural products (31), value-added products (48) and youth (2).

- Nonprofit booth and musician applications/sign-up forms have been posted on the market website and are being circulated. The applications are available in English and Spanish versions.

- Market Ambassador Laura Barajas is offering application assistance.

- "Early bird" applications were due February 29th and general applications are due March 22nd. Vendor decisions will be made on April 9, 2024.

- LCFM is a site for the new SNAP/EBT payment process pilot (eHIP). The market is working in coordination with CO HHS and Nourish Colorado to implement the pilot program. Ideally all produce vendors at LCFM would become authorized to take SNAP/EBT electronically and participate in the pilot program. Double-up Food Bucks (DUFEB) will still be distributed and accepted at the market once eHIP starts.

- Market Days and musician sponsorships are being sought.

- Maggie is attending the Colorado Farmers Market Association (CFMA) conference on March 7-10, 2024 in Grand Junction. She has been attending various webinars and calls with CFMA and the Farmers Market Coalition.

- Maggie and Jess are connecting with several local food systems advocates and connectors to start working on food systems projects such as farms to institutions (schools, restaurants, etc).

- Maggie and Jess will be attending the Food Systems PRU retreat in early April.

Food Safety & Nutrition (Amber and Analecia)

Family and Consumer Science:

- Amber started a nutrition series at Loveland Habitat for Humanity with live interpretation and translated materials being offered.

- Monthly nutrition classes for UCHHealth Aspen Club members was launched in January.

- Amber will be attending the Modernizing Home Food Preservation conference at the end of February. It is hosted by the University of Oregon.

- ESP Global Relations Committee is working on creating a webinar focused on professional development international travel for Extension professionals.

Retail Food Safety:

- Analecia has hosted two full class trainings so far this year and both classes had a 100% pass rate.
- Twenty exams have been given to date with 19 out of 20 passing (95% for the current year).
- Analecia returned to provide requested classes again to Estes Park YMCA and other local businesses with 12 attendees. She also facilitated a class with Cheley Camps with 15 attendees. Interpretation was requested and provided for both of these classes.
- We are looking to partner with FRCC and LCEWD to host classes and exams to larger audiences.
- Working on a new training workbook for both CFPM and FSW.

Health and Well-Being: (Christa and Cheryl)

- Healthy aging (Cheryl): Employee workshops on advance care planning are planned for the City of Fort Collins and Columbine Health and Rehab Center. Both are scheduled for the spring. Upcoming community presentations on advance directives include Chilson Senior Center and Berthoud Library. We met with the Food Bank to help them expand their nutrition programs for older adults including their monthly commodity boxes. We are promoting the boxes to our Market Days participants. The Food Bank will let us use the boxes as outreach for Senior Access Points by providing magnets for each of the boxes. 700 of them!
- Mental Health (Christa): She has been meeting with local partners including the Larimer County Health Department and faculty to assess needs and solutions related to social media influences on youth mental health. She has applied to receive a student intern in the summer to create an outreach plan that can inform a pilot program, campaign or event based on feedback from youth, parents, and youth serving partners.
- Nature and Health (Christa): Human Dimensions of Natural Resources faculty partnered with us to submit a grant to Larimer County Natural Resources to provide education and gain community input on nature influences on health and well-being. Christa is collaborating with faculty to host educational offerings and events to the public including a family-friendly event in the summer. They are also planning to host listening sessions with local organizations who specifically serve BIPOC, low-income, and community members with mental health needs to assess needs and barriers related to nature and health.
- Radon (Christa): The radon social media campaign officially ended on Feb 2nd with 420 free test kits ordered by residents. Residents are receiving the test kits by mail and Christa is following-up with residents who have elevated radon levels in the home to provide education about options for mitigation. She will be presenting the campaign model and results to a health communications class on campus; students will analyze the results and provide recommendations for future campaigns as their final class project.
- Climate and Health: Christa is a member of the Health Risks Focus Group for the Larimer County Climate Smart Future Ready Initiative. As part of this work she partnered on a grant with faculty on campus (Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences), which was recently approved to create a class for students to learn about community engagement on climate health issues. Her role is to help guide their course development related to community engagement and link students to the Climate Smart Future Ready health projects for applied learning opportunities. Christa is also included in the budget to be trained in a climate/mental health resilience training, which can be offered to the public in the future.

- Christa attended the launch event for the NoCo Community Foundation's first ever regional well-being report, Northern Colorado Intersections: Pursuing Regional Well-Being. The report details the intersecting issues our region is facing due to growth in the area (we are expecting a 92% increase in population by 2045). Water scarcity and infrastructure improvements seemed to be the top issues for elected officials and sector partners, but many other issues have been noted in the report. CSU Extension has a role in many of the solutions and Christa encourages staff/board to read the report and engage in conversations about how we can be helpful to the community in the face of these challenges. Here is the [link](#) to the event recording.

Horticulture: (Alison)

- See presentation for updates.

General/Other (Cary)

- The Advisory Committee recruitment deadline is March 8, 2024. We will be losing Regan and Matt soon and I just wanted to let everyone know that we are recruiting and to let everyone know to go out and recruit to fill these positions.

- Showcase feedback:

K-lynn: I thought it was excellent. It was really nice to see all of the information presented. It was like an orientation for me. Kelly: I liked the booths and the orientation of the room not facing the front of the room. Kara: I thought it was very valuable and not on a day where we have a meeting.

Matt: I really like the direction of the showcase as well and how it has progressed. To back track for a second about the advisory committee. Are there any topic areas that are lacking in the committee?

Cary: According to the bylaws, they mention specific areas we are looking to cover: Agriculture, Family Consumer Education, Nutrition/Food Safety and Health, Environment and Natural Resources, Horticulture, and Community Development.

Regan: One question I have is there any component within Extension that will give 4-H members vocational skills or other things beyond academics?

Kara: Yes, we do have projects that are devoted to some trades (electricity, metal works, etc).

Diana: Also Juntos plays a role in this effort to educate our underserved youth as well.

Career prep and other issues are addressed within the Juntos program too.

- Cary: There is a CSU budget exercise going on right now. There are some constraints on the CSU budget due to the state legislature. The amount being segmented for CSU is less than anticipated. Two, four, and six percent cuts are being asked for each program as a possibility. I don't see this trickling into CSU Extension offices at the county level but I could be wrong. We are always trying to maximize our funds so if you have any suggestions when it comes to sponsorships for some of our programs I would like to hear them.

- Cary: We are also hiring for Pam's position coming up. We hope to have someone hired by mid-May for some overlap and training time. Pam's last day is May 31, 2024.

- Kara: Can we get a retirement card for our next meeting?

PRESENTATION: Horticulture – Alison

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

- Horticulture/Larimer County Farmers Market update (Alison/Maggie).

- Farmers' Market and food systems update (Maggie).
- Farmers Market Update: indoor restrooms, CSU intern, special events, SNAP and DUBF update, current vendor applications, and sponsorships.
- Food systems activity.
- Horticulture update (Alison).
- What's on the horizon for 2024?
- CSU Green School: in person review sessions for apprentices.
- New Program: Evergreen Elders.
- Master Gardener research trials: two trials are planned for 2024.
- Water: supporting sustainable use.

DISCUSSION: Revisiting bylaws based on updated Larimer County Boards and Commissions policy

Cary: Commissioners and County leadership went through a process to update the Larimer County Board and Commission policies. It is now up to each board to integrate this updated policy into their by-laws. I have shared this with each Advisory Committee member and now I was hoping we can go through those suggested changes. I made a few notes on the shared document.

Matt: The language surrounding the two term limit may be worth updating. It seemed straight forward, but people are not understanding that there is a possibility to go into a third term as long as the experience of the individual doesn't overlap with any other committee member.

Cary: Okay, so maybe integrating that language from the commissioner's policy into the by-laws?

Matt: Yes, but mainly just clarifying the overall knowledge of exactly what that means into our by-laws.

Cary: I have added a minor note, but we can go further and I can add the exact language for better clarification.

Matt: I think that the note would be a good addition.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:36 a.m.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: May 1, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Andy Weakland
 March 6, 2024