



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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Extension Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2024

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

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

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner Kristin Stephens

Extension staff attending: Andy Weakland, Alison O'Connor, Cari Brown, Rachel Wildman, Analecia Vasquez, Bailey Schilling, Diana Castro Gonzalez, Maggie Switzer, Christa Timmerman

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment. Public comment will be removed from the agenda after this month's meeting.

AGENDA REVIEW: Table until next meeting since quorum was not met.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Table until next meeting since quorum was not met.

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

Kara: Someone reached out to me about donating some books related to World War II that had been translated to Spanish. I let her know she could connect with Diana.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT/COMMENTS:

Commissioner Stephens: Not always able to make these meetings, but grateful to be able to meet with everyone last month. We are right in the middle of the legislative session. Issues being addressed:

- Access issues and scheduling concerns with 4-H programs.
- Focus areas for Extension in 2024 are housing, water, roads, bridges, childcare and workforce.

INFORMATION ITEMS: (10 minutes, highlights)

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

- See presentation for updates.

Ag & Natural Resources: (Jess)

- Attended Food Systems PRU retreat and planning on attending the Agriculture PRU retreat.
- Planning our first Soil Health Demo Day on June 22, 2024. The Demo Day will start with a tour of a local vegetable farmer's current soil health practices. After the tour there will be breakout demonstrations on soil health by the NRCS and CSU In-Riches team.
- Chelsea Pearson will be joining Jess as an intern on May 14, 2024, to help her work on the Climate Smart Future Ready Soil health actions.
- Jess is working with Maggie to create a networking roundtable event with food system organizations, local commercial markets and producers.
- Finishing up the Ag Producer Survey. A report will be created once results are tallied.

Community Development: (Lisa)

- The Nueva Vida mobile home park received their soccer goals just in time for spring and summer.
- Commissioner Kefalas joined the FLTI group on March 28, 2024, to discuss local government.
- On April 10, 2024, the Larimer County FLTI group joined five other FLTI groups from across the state for an educational day at the State Capitol. The group received a presentation by Attorney General Phil Weisner, were recognized on the House floor, watched some Senate and House proceedings, and attended committee hearings to watch testimonials.
- Sixteen adult FLTI class members graduated on May 2, 2024.
- The first Aging Mastery in Spanish alumni group met in April and had a guest speaker from the Alzheimer's Association.

Farmers' Market: (Maggie)

- CSU Extension intern, Mary Callaghan, will be starting with us on May 13, 2024. She will focus on market special events, Market Days, and inclusion. She is mentored by Maggie, Alison, Christa, Cheryl, and Rachel.
- The market has received 184 vendor applications, with 122 approved, 28 waitlisted, 30 declined, and four withdrawn.
- Eleven produce vendors at LCFM are FNS (USDA Food & Nutrition Service) authorized to accept SNAP directly as a currency at the market, which is instrumental for eHIP pilot later in market season, and increasing food access to low income populations more broadly as farmers can use this technology to accept SNAP at farm stands and other selling opportunities.
- Larimer County Food Bank partnerships: through the "Veg Out" program, the Food Bank will purchase unsold produce at a discounted rate from produce vendors for distribution at

Larimer County Food Bank facilities. The Food Bank Outreach Coordinator will perform Cooking Matters classes on-site at the market, conduct tours of the market with Food Bank participants and distribute Food Bank market bucks.

- LCFM will accept WIC FMNP this year 2024 (Farmers' Market Nutrition Program). Our market is only one of 22 markets in the state of Colorado to accept this form of currency.
- LCFM will host Compost Queen (local composting company) at the market and Compost Queen will collect and process market food waste.
- Maggie attended the Food System PRU retreat with Jess.
- Maggie is working with Jess on creating a networking roundtable event with food system organizations, local commercial markets and producers.
- Connecting with other area farmers market managers (Winter Market and FOCO Market on Harmony Road) to collaborate on Vendor 101 for wintertime (post-market).

Food Safety & Nutrition (Amber and Analecia)

Family and Consumer Science:

- Amber has returned to teaching classes at Larimer County Community Corrections in the 90-day residential treatment program for men and women.
- Now serving on the Health and Wellbeing PRU leadership team as co-lead for the newly formed Food Safety, Preservation, Preparation working group.
- Expanding class offerings to older adults with UCHHealth Aspen Club to include Windsor and Estes Park.
- Working on creating a new curriculum called "Cooking for one for two".

Retail Food Safety:

- Analecia is working with Larimer County Environmental Health specialists on inspections to better understand all parts of the industry that are going through the training.
- Continuing conversations with FRCC to bring our training to the masses to try and bridge the gap between businesses and the new food code requirements for Certified Food Protection Managers.
- Hospitality sector partnership training opportunities: Colorado Workforce Development Council grant and CFPM certification into the online program provided.
- Working on a new training workbook for both Certified Food Protection Manager and Food Safety Works.
- Recently finished the first requested class at YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. Interpretation services were provided to 12 participants.
- To date, there have been 49 participants in the full class model with an 88% pass rate. Total exams given: 63, with an 86% pass rate.

Health and Well-Being: (Christa and Cheryl)

- Healthy aging: Senior Access Points [2023 community impact](#) report is available. The program is going strong with increased views to larimerseniors.org over 2022 plus 100 increased calls to the Office on Aging over 2022. The program started in 2018. Cheryl will be organizing an end-of-life panel presentation hosted by Poudre Libraries (thanks Xochil for making the connections). The event will be in late fall. More details as the event shapes up. Thanks to Cari Brown for implementing a social media fundraising campaign for Market Days for Older Adults for the month of April. Donations are coming in. We also submitted a grant for Market Days to

Colorado Trust that would fund the program for three years. We'll learn the decision in May. At this point, we are working with \$20,000 from donations and sponsors to distribute vouchers to 100 participants.

- Christa is working with faculty from the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Staff to host a family-friendly nature and health fair. Healthy by Nature is set for July 27th at Lee Martinez Park. There will be a free community picnic, information booths, and hands-on learning activities related to how the outdoors can benefit our health and well-being.
- Christa is coordinating with Larimer County Health Department staff and other CSU Extension staff to assess needs and current research about impacts of social media and technology on youth development and mental health. She attended a national conference on April 4th-5th to learn about the current research and has developed a document to track news articles, webinars, websites, and research on the topic. She will collaborate with LCDHE on community engagement with parents and youth to assess current knowledge, attitudes, needs, and ideas for future programming.
- Christa will be supervising an MPH student this summer for her practicum. The intern is interested in the nature and health events and social media/technology efforts.
- Christa is a co-lead for the health focus team of the Climate Smart Future Ready Initiative. The group is meeting monthly and recently decided to create a heat plan and communications campaign for Larimer County. Christa's role is to convene partners to create a scope of work for this effort.

Horticulture: (Alison)

- Master Gardener apprentice training ended in early April and our 14 apprentices will be out in the community completing their volunteer hours; the total number of Master Gardeners is 138. Some scheduled volunteer opportunities include in-person office duty on Tuesdays and Thursdays (10am-1pm, May 7 to October 10, 2024); Q&A booths at the Loveland, Berthoud, and Larimer County Farmers Markets; CSU research and demonstration gardens: Annual Flower Trials, Perennial Gardens, Arboretum, Cut Flower Trials, pollination and heirloom research; Tree Team training and on-site visits.

● With two Master Gardeners in Estes Park, we are building outreach opportunities. We will participate in their Arbor Day celebration and have a volunteer attending the community gardens workday in May to speak about high-elevation gardening.

- With horticulture therapist Erica Wharton, we have done three Evergreen Elders presentations with a fourth scheduled on May 17, 2024. We have partnered with Dementia Together and nursing homes. We are meeting with the Larimer County Office on Aging to discuss the program and to expand reach.

- Alison will attend the [Trees in the West Conference](#) at Denver Botanic Garden on May 13, 2024.

- The CSU Extension horticulture team will be hosting a group of 30 Penn State horticulture Extension faculty in early June in Fort Collins; there are several day trips scheduled to various industries (turf, greenhouse production, nursery, and cut flowers).

- With Lisa Auer and Amber Webb, we will be teaching the Garden to Kitchen class at the Old Town Library on June 12, 2024.

● The Twilight Garden Series will be held on Thursdays from 6pm-8pm on June 27, July 25, and August 29, 2024. Two will be held at the Gardens on Spring Creek and one at the CSU Trial Gardens.

General/Other (Cary)

● Three new members have gone through the application process and will be approved by the Commissioners in June. Hopefully they will be here for the July meeting. One new member is going through the application process currently. There is good diversity of backgrounds with the new members.

● Our 4-H Administrative Specialist new hire, Britney Filter, will begin on May 14, 2024.

● Invitations to Pam's retirement party will be sent to new members of the Advisory Committee once we receive their contact information.

- We have a potential date for Showcase of February 5, 2025.

PRESENTATION: 4-H/STEM/JUNTOS – Bailey, Rachel, Diana
(Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation for further information).

● Larimer County 4-H consists of: Family and Consumer Science, General Projects, Livestock, Companion Animals, Horse and Cloverbuds.

● Goal of 4-H.

● Experiential Learning Model.

● Community Partners 2024.

● Workshops offered in 2024.

● Leadership Experiences 2023-2024.

● Contests.

● Aims and Indicators.

● College and Career Prep (Juntos - STEM). Highlights of 2023 and what is in the works for 2024.

● Livestock and Equine Goals.

● General and Family Consumer Science Goals.

● Career Prep Goal.

● Questions: Commissioner Stephens: How are other Juntos programs funded? Diana: Other programs have different funding sources, one is called SIFAR. It varies from state to state. Oregon has University funding as well.

DISCUSSION: Revisiting bylaws based on updated Larimer County Boards and Commissions policy. There are no issues with the additional language added.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Weakland
May 1, 2024