

Extension Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
1525 Blue Spruce Drive
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524
(970) 498-6000
www.larimer.org/ext

March 4, 2026
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Advisory Board members attending: JoAnn Herkenhoff, Margaret Long, Kara Rudnick, K-Lynn Cameron, Kelly Pollard, Scott Hapner

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner John Kefalas - not present

Extension staff attending: Andy Weakland, Lisa Auer, Roxanne Bashor, Jenna Brager, Analecia Vasquez, Alison O'Connor, Christa Timmerman, Rachel Wildman, Lexie Casper, Jess Callen

Guest: Sharel Cameron

CALL TO ORDER: at 8:02 a.m.

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved with no amendments.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: January 7, 2026 meeting minutes were approved.

COMMITTEE FEEDBACK: None.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT/COMMENTS:

- Commissioner Kefalas was not present at this meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS: (10 minutes, highlights)

4-H: (Bailey, Britney, Rachel, Roxanne)

- January Recap:
 - 4-H member Dagny Brault competed at the Western National Roundup in Horse Presentation and received 3rd place.
 - Family Consumer Sciences Skill-a-thon Team placed 2nd in the Life Skills Assessment and 5th Overall.
 - The Consumer Decision Making Team placed 3rd in Group Think and 4th Overall.
 - A Stock Show previsit at Ft. Collins Christian School & Preschool prepared 20 kids to attend the Stock Show.
 - Fifteen youth from Larimer County were in attendance as well as the Colorado State 4-H President at the Leadership Development Conference.
 - Dog and Horse Orientations were held throughout the month.

- February Recap:
 - Enrollment closed on February 15, 2026, with a total enrollment number of 871 (779 4-H members and 92 Cloverbuds). Total volunteers to date is 269.
 - Roxanne attended the Amazing Shake event at New Vision Elementary school. This was a fantastic event to branch into outreach within the Thompson School District schools.
 - Beef Tag-In: Tagged 92 market beef animals.
 - MQA Training and Livestock Field Day: 100 youth took the MQA exam to prepare for showing livestock this upcoming year.
 - Throughout February various orientations occurred, including Market Goat/Sheep and Swine, Poultry and Rabbit, and Shooting Sports. Also, several projects have completed their first couple of workshops: Cake Decorating, Sewing, Cloverbuds, Small Engines, Scrapbooking, Beekeeping, and Leathercraft.
- March Upcoming:
 - Add-Drop for projects is March 1, 2026, and project manuals will go out to all clubs for members to be distributed at their March meetings.
 - 4-H Fest is scheduled for March 7, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please come to volunteer and have some fun. Please invite your friends as it will be open to the public. We have 16 clubs that will be hosting game booths, 18 members participating in the Maker Fair, and a silent auction.
 - Citizenship Washington Focus and Ignite: Four Larimer County 4-H members will be traveling to Washington, D.C. for this conference, and two members will be giving a presentation.
 - Larimer County Dog Expo will be on March 28, 2026. It is open to youth throughout the state to learn more about the different dog disciplines and requirements for the project.
 - Larimer County's first Veterinary Science Skill-a-thon is scheduled for the first Saturday in March.
 - Beef Camp is scheduled for the third weekend in March.
 - Hunter education for Shooting Sports members is scheduled for the third weekend of March.
- April Upcoming:
 - Swine Tagging Kits will be available March 30-May 1, 2026.
 - Rachel and Roxanne will be attending the State 4-H/CAE4-HYA Annual Meeting for four days.
 - LifeSmarts Team will be attending the National competition.
 - The Regional Public Speaking Contest is scheduled for the last weekend of April.
 - Bob Keirns Memorial Gymkhana (Horse Event) is scheduled for the last weekend of April.

Agriculture: (Jess)

- See Presentation for updates.

Community Development: (Lisa)

- The Family Engagement Civic Learning Lab is currently accepting applications. It is a virtual online ten week series focused on family, school and community partnerships. It is offered at no cost in both English and Spanish languages. Lisa Auer, alongside Aliria Bello, will be facilitating the program. This Civic Learning Lab is a collaboration between Rocky Mountain Family Engagement Collective and CSU Extension Family Leadership Training Institute. Priority is given to Thompson School District families. If you know a Thompson School District family who would like to take this training have them sign up today www.RMFEC.org/CLL. The deadline for registration is March 5, 2026.
- Lisa is partnering with the Berthoud library to host a Local Government workshop this spring.
- Plans are in place to host the 20 week FLTI curriculum this Fall and Spring of 2027. This allows the funding to be spread across two fiscal years, which has been a barrier in the past.
- Gail Engel, an FLTI alumni and founder of the Grand Family Coalition and Larimer County Alliance for Grandfamilies (LCAG) has retired. LCAG consists of kin raising kin and community partners across the county who support grandfamilies. Lisa is currently chairing LCAG and they are looking for a co-chair.

Farmers' Market and Food Systems: (Maggie)

- Maggie is attending the [InTents National Farmers Market Conference](#) in San Diego today and is sending best wishes to you all!
- Maggie and Jess led the Farm2LocalBiz local food networking event on February 5, 2026, with community partners (Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, NoCo Foodshed Project, Larimer County Economic Development). The event was a huge success. Over 40 unique businesses attended to network with 20 local producers. We are conducting the post-event work to administer the local food incentive coupons and continue fostering the event connections. A huge thank you to Xochil, K-Lynn and Scott for your help with the event.
- Maggie hosted a webinar on February 19, 2026, with the Larimer County Sales Tax Office for Farmers' Market vendors on the County sales tax process and was extended to other area markets in Larimer County as well.
- Maggie co-hosted the Colorado Farmers Market Association annual three day conference with the Winter Farmers Market from February 27 through March 1, 2026. Farmers' market managers across Colorado came together for resource-sharing, collaboration and networking. It was great getting to show off the LCFM to market managers statewide!
- Maggie is rolling along with market planning, vendor decisions and Market Days for Older Adults program organization.

Food Safety: (Analecia)

- Analecia provided feedback and concerns to the County Legislative Coordinator on HB26-1033 Expanding the Colorado Cottage Foods Act. HB26-1033 allows time-and temperature-controlled foods to be made and sold from home kitchens, at unlimited scale, with no routine inspections.

- Cottage Food requirements to Retail Food regulations: CF list versus TCS food.
 - CFS training vs CFPM training
 - Foodborne Illness. There is no way to track down the business if someone gets sick and is dealing with potentially hazardous foods.
- Analecia met with the MFSA volunteers to discuss goals for the 2026 year, Open Class for the Fair, and classes for the season.
- CFPM numbers - 70 participants total for all packages, 48 have completed the exam (full class and exam only). There are 22 currently scheduled for an upcoming class.
- FSW numbers - 8 total. Analecia is working with Lexie to push interest in training.
- LIGHTR Grant numbers - \$5,775- redeemed, scheduled, applied for a total of 33 participants, \$4,225 left for the grant money, with 24 spots available.
- Health Department Voucher numbers - \$4,975 spent, with 33 total participants (15 redeemed, 12 signed up, and six need to pick a class date).

Health and Well-Being: (Christa)

- The radon social media campaign resulted in 565 test kits being ordered. We are already getting lab results back and will be sending letters to those with elevated levels soon to encourage mitigation and offer resources. We have 70 kits set aside for Spanish-speaking homeowners and will work on getting those distributed in the next few months.
- Christa has two interns this semester. One is a School of Public Health student who developed a [survey to assess older adult nutrition education needs](#). She will develop some programming based on the feedback and a research review. The second intern is an undergraduate with Human Dimensions of Natural Resources. She is helping to launch the Branch Out nature and health curriculum for youth. She is also helping with some state-wide efforts related to nature and health including building a toolkit.
- Christa will be presenting at the Berthoud Public Library on March 12 and 26, 2026, on the Mediterranean Diet and Healthy Cooking for one or two.
- Connection Cafe in Red Feather Lakes is still going strong with monthly visits to the North Forty Food Pantry. January was cancelled due to weather. In February, we brought the Alliance For Suicide Prevention as our partner highlight.

Horticulture: (Alison)

- Alison will be teaching additional classes throughout March and April on various subjects, including tree and turf diagnostics; tree planting, culture, and care; maintaining landscapes during drought; common pests and diseases of perennials; and more! There have been a lot of requests for classes on waterwise landscaping and managing landscapes during drought.
- Because of the dry, warm winter, Alison was interviewed by 9 News in Denver and Colorado Public Radio, to talk about winter watering, potential stress to landscapes, and what gardeners can do (hint: water and mulch!).
- Master Gardeners will be doing several classes at the Berthoud Library throughout 2026 and have a three-week series scheduled at the Loveland Library on April 3, 10, and 17, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Classes are also being coordinated with Council Tree

Library in Fort Collins. Topics vary and include small-space vegetable gardening, waterwise perennials, the benefits of houseplants, rose culture and care, and more.

- Landscape Like You Live Here is a new six-week introductory to Colorado gardening/landscaping that will launch April 7, 2026. Registration is \$150 and open to anyone, with a focus on HOA board members, the general public, and those who may have recently moved to Colorado. Topics include trees, shrubs, perennials, and lawn care, as well as the basics of design and irrigation. [Learn more here.](#)
- With the Health PRU, Alison will attend their summit at the end of April and share information and do a short activity that we'd do in a Evergreen Elders class. Health state specialist Sue Schneider is helping develop toolkits for statewide engagement with older adults. Alison and Erica Wharton (CMG) will be working to develop materials that can help counties offer therapeutic horticulture classes for older adults based on Evergreen Elders.

Natural Resources: (Jenna)

- The Native Plant Master program is launching registration the second week of March, offering four 3-day courses that count towards certification, including one new course and an additional daylong in-person introductory class. We have three new instructors and are working towards cultivating additional instructors for future seasons.
- Jenna recently conducted her first site visit about designing a predator-proof chicken coop and run. Requests for other site visits are coming in, mostly for stewarding healthy pastures and managing weeds. We will ramp up site visits starting at the end of March when plants are growing in and more visible.
- Jenna is collaborating with Extension staff in other counties to offer workshops on topics including drought planning, forestry, and living with wildlife. Forestry Academy is an Extension-designed curriculum for landowners managing forested acreage.
- The Center of Collaborative Conservation has invited Jenna to be a practitioner participant in their new Common Ground Fellowship, training CSU undergrads and graduate students with mentorship from Natural Resources practitioners who have had success with collaboration on conservation efforts.
- Jenna is involved with the Larimer County Water Master Plan. The goal of the Plan is to engage a network of regional experts to identify high-impact opportunities for preserving irrigated farmland in Larimer County, specifically addressing Strategy 7 of Larimer County's Water Master Plan. Currently considering the viability of mechanisms such as conservation easements, transfer of development rights, agricultural districts, and other models.

General/Other: (Cary)

- Open recruitment for the Advisory Committee will be February 27 through March 22, 2026. Our current make-up of committee members is great. The only possible need would be someone with a food safety background.

PRESENTATION: (Agriculture - Jess Callen)

- Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation for further information.

DISCUSSION:

- No further discussion topics.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- 4-H Fest this weekend.
- Float building for the St. Patrick's Day parade.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:29 a.m.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: May 6, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Weakland

March 4, 2026