

Larimer County Extension Advisory Committee Minutes

November 4, 2020

Members present via Zoom: Cailea Eisenberg, Nathan Hall, Pam Harrold, Matt Holloran, John Kefalas, Marilyn Lasich, Kathy Mason, Kerri Rollins, Kara Rudnick, Richard Tingey, Regan Thomas, Andy Weakland.

Excused: Pilar Holt, Maia Potts, Irene Romsa,

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments presented.
3. AGENDA REVIEW: The Agenda was reviewed and approved.
4. APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: The Minutes of the September 9, 2020 meeting were approved.
5. STAFF PRESENTATIONS: There were no staff presentations at this meeting.
6. INFORMATION ITEMS:
 - A. Introductions: Andy Weakland was introduced as the new Business Operations Supervisor for the Larimer County Extension office. Members in attendance introduced themselves.
 - B. Upcoming Larimer County Extension Classes and Programs: None presented
 - C. COVID Updates:
 - Cases are currently on the rise and staff should continue to work from home for the next two weeks and to stay safe. Andy is the only staff member currently working in the office. Any plan on repopulating the office is on hold at this time. The Extension office is still offering programs at this time and must submit waivers to CSU when we offer certain programs (Kerri).
 - The State currently has a system in place for the various levels of restrictions. Larimer County is currently at Level 1, the “Safer at Home” status. This Friday is the deadline for the County’s two week containment plan. There is a strong possibility that Larimer County may be required to go up to Level 2. If this is the case there will be implications for places of worship and other entities. The BOCC had a good meeting with the Poudre School District in providing a unified voice to the community (John).
 - D. 4-H Program Updates:
 - 4-H Livestock Agent Brittani Kirkland has left Extension and the search for a replacement is moving forward and will be posted very soon by CSU. Katie Daywalker has recently joined Extension and is very capable as the Youth Development and Leadership Agent.
 - The Ranch Masterplan

- 4-H has been asked to help care for the livestock that have been displaced due to the Cameron Peak Fire (Kerri).
- Components of the Larimer County Fair will be transitioning from being ran by Extension to The Ranch. This includes the livestock and horse as well as Open Class competitions and the Fair Office beginning in 2021.

E. Horticulture Updates:

- The last day of the Larimer County Farmers' Market was October 31, 2020. The Market overall was successful and positive even with the challenges presented by the virus.
- The dates for the 2021 market are May 22-October 30, 2021.
- The Market Days! Program provided over 1,000 pre-packed produce bags to Larimer County low income older adults through our community partners; Farmers' Market vendors benefitted from this program by making more than \$20,000 in direct produce sales. This program is an awesome team effort including Alison O'Connor, Sue Schneider, Amber Webb, Emily Aligood and Kali LeMaster with CSU.
- Alison O'Connor was recently awarded the National Distinguished Coordinator Award on behalf of the National Extension Master Gardener committee.
- Gardening webinars continue in their popularity; a Friday Front Range series ended on October 30. Topics covered fall-planted bulbs, best trees and shrubs for fall color, landscape design, and ornamental grasses, among others. These classes were taught by Front Range horticulture agents and an average of 130 people watched the webinars live, with hundreds more watching the recordings. All classes are posted on the CO-Horts blog website at: [CO-Horts: CSU Extension Gardening Webinars \(csuhort.blogspot.com\)](http://CO-Horts: CSU Extension Gardening Webinars (csuhort.blogspot.com)) for viewing.
- The Master Gardener Annual Banquet, held virtually, will be Saturday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m. Extension Advisory Committee members are welcome to attend and can register at:
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcuf-2orj0qG9cmlJBSJ0SstBlkjh2Vu4l>.

F. Food & Nutrition Updates:

- Amber offered a virtual Lunch and Learn food preservation series to the public with six different topics including canning, dehydrating and fermentation.
- Amber is continuing to work on details of the Community Corrections partnership to launch this winter.

G. Ag & Natural Resources:

- Karen Crumbaker has been working with the County to update Recovery Resources for Residents and provide assistance to landowners seeking assistance on landscape management. Karen will be attending an event the County will be holding to provide landowners with recovery resources on Thursday, November 5, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Foundations Church, 1380 N. Denver Ave, Loveland.
- Larimer County Extension hosted the Wildfire Wednesday Speaker Series and presented four statewide webinars in October on Fire Ecology & Behavior (168

attended); Defensible Space and Home Hardening (144 attended); Fire Resistant Landscaping (98 attended); and Evacuation Preparedness and Animal Evacuation. A total of 751 signed up to attend the webinars or watch the recordings. The recorded webinars can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKj82sOqHnw&list=PL-phQKUKHx8VEcwT7Jrqa0S9m3ztHIBx&ab_channel=JeffcoExtension.

- The Native Plant Master Program was unable to hold any NPM courses in 2020, yet the NPM volunteers were able to make 1,475 educational contacts and volunteer 385 hours during the year to report to CSU Extension.
- The Colorado Building Farmer and Rancher Program will not be held in Larimer County this year due to COVID, but will be held as a statewide virtual program beginning in December.

H. Community Development:

- Lisa Auer is using funds that would have been used for food expenses during the FLTI year to purchase five laptop computers. She will be creating and loading a resource library for virtual courses for participants to utilize. She should be wrapping up this project by the end of the year.
- Sue Schneider and Lisa Auer attended the eXtension Impact Collaborative Summit on October 13 and 14 to begin designing a new project called Mindful Engagement. This will be a professional development opportunity for FLTI alumni to receive training in five pillars of mindfulness and to apply the training in their community projects focused on supporting compassionate communities. Sue and Lisa were invited to apply for \$5000 in seed money from the eXtension Foundation. They submitted the application and should hear within the next month.
- Sue Schneider released the November-January virtual health & wellness classes. All classes remain online and free to the public. Upcoming classes can be found on the Larimer County Extension Health & Wellbeing page.
- The 2020 FLTI dual language cohort has continued on virtually. The last class will be on November 12, 2020 and graduation will take place virtually on November 19, 2020. During the month of October the FLTI group had the following speakers visit their class: Senator Joann Ginal, Representative Cathy Kipp, Commissioner John Kefalas, Poudre School District Board Member and FLTI Alumni DJ Anderson and Larimer County Health District Board Member Celeste Kling.

7. DISCUSSION:

A. Showcase Subcommittee Report:

- Subcommittee of Regan, Matt, Maia and Kathy.
- Kathy and Regan
- Congrats to Alison on her national award.
- Looking into a possible separate recognition to Alison through the county. Opportunities to do so with the Commissioners, recognition online through social media, Master Gardeners banquet recognition (virtual) on behalf of the Advisory

Committee, a card (virtual possibly), email from board (Kathy send board the email that was sent out for Alison), Larimer County newsletter article.

- Actions items: Kathy will send info to board about the award. Kathy will check with Michelle Bird on Larimer County newsletter; Kerri will work with commissioner's office to get on agenda for recognition.
- Regan: annual showcase sponsored by advisory board, luncheon, great event to showcase achievements and talk about future. Limited this year because of COVID. Subgroup put together to find out what other avenues there may be for showcase. Sub-committee met and decided The Ranch would not work. It was concluded that a video from Extension is the best route to go. Kathy is working on video and will involve staff and Regan as an outline is drafted. She has already had a Zoom call meeting with staff to start the video process. Looking to highlight a few things this year with the video. Outline will be sent out today.
- Include activities involving the fire response in serving our community. Highlighting serving our community within our Strategic Guidance Plan as our theme.
- Timing: Most likely not the first week of January, but more toward the end February. A video will take more time to mine all the information needed and to put it together.
- Discussion on the theme of video and making sure it centers around engaging the community, constituents, and broader outreach at large.
- With two new commissioners it may be possible using the video as an orientation tool for Extension. Caitlan is putting together an orientation guide for the commissioners and it will include Extension's website information. The video could also be helpful for all new County elected officials to introduce Extension to them.

B. Community Assessment Update and Discussion:

- Kerri: working diligently on Strategic guidance. Share work that staff has done.
- PowerPoint presentation: Larimer County CSU Extension Community Needs Assessment and Strategic Guidance.
- Kerri shared link to members on call for IdeaBoardz discussion.
- IdeaBoardz discussion and brainstorming session.
 - Increasing access to resources and information at Colorado State University:
 - (Kara) Regular column in newspaper and Fact Sheets. Utilize the food column in the newspaper by Carol Schultz.
 - (Matt) Focus on Environmental Science and climate change. Distributing user-friendly information from CSU; could tie to ag property and yard/land management; food and ag. Water is important for community.
 - (Kerri) Seeing what programs we have nationally to incorporate via eXtension, etc.
 - Mental health and stress Management:

- (Kara) Robbie's Hope Foundation regarding youth mental health and her own 4-H club. This might be something to look into. It was developed by youth with adult guidance
 - (Pam) Problem with elderly and mental health because of isolation due to COVID.
 - (Nathan) Possibility of therapy around planting plants to help people in mental health facilities. Inclusion of mental health animal therapy as well.
- Personal financial management and planning:
 - (Kerri) What is already in place? 4-H clubs have a treasurer in each club but nothing involving life skills.
 - (Kara) State legislature has mandated classes in high school (limited).
 - (Kathy) Kids these days use different mediums such as Venmo, etc.
- Outreach and marketing:
 - (Pam) Age old problem with marketing and outreach. Lots of youth that aren't involved in 4-H, reaching out to them. How much backing do we get from CSU?
 - (Kathy) Limited budget. 2 new hires to help facilitate extension wide outreach.
 - (Maia) Partner with more recognizable businesses and constituents. Get more boots on the ground to get more outreach in community.
 - (Cailea) Email marketing and webpage utilization opportunity. She has a friend in marketing that can assist and will connect with Kathy to help utilize that resource.
- Nutrition and healthy cooking:
 - (Kara) Recipe of the week posting on Extension website or pushed through with email.
 - (Richard) More information on diabetic type of cooking and resources.
- Developing youth life skills:
 - (Kerri) Not just 4-H, but STEM programming and tying this into career opportunities and getting into college.
 - (Kara) Helping the kids understand their education and career path. How to apply, how to tie in what they currently do in 4-H to how that can help. Highlighting non-animal projects.
 - (Matt) 4-H is the avenue. Emphasis on growing the participation in 4-H and other programs. How can Extension diversify that?
 - (Pam) How does 4-H become more relevant to the underserved in the community? Spanish speaking club? More diversity.
 - (Maia) Partnership with La Familia.
- Developing youth leadership skills:

- (Kara) Lots of overlap with your life skills. Some clubs are very leader lead instead of your lead. 4-H Curriculum may need further development.
- (Marilyn) Curriculum is too bulky with too much information. There is not a lot of development in this area. Provide opportunity to see what leadership positions are out in the community.
- (Pam) FLTI program when they incorporate the youth has done a great job with developing youth.
- Emergency Preparedness
 - (Kerri) Prepare, Respond, Restore.
 - (Richard) Mitigation. Education for what to do when people need to leave in a hurry. Emergency Preparedness Response team through FEMA.
 - (Pam) With the High Park fire, Extension was there to help provide a lot of support. Extension is a place where people go for a lot of answers, but no one really knows they are there.
 - (Kerri) Lots of update during the Cameron Peak Fire to the website, but it is well known that it needs an overhaul.

8. OTHER BUSINESS: No additional business.

9. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: The next meeting of the Larimer County Extension Advisory Board is scheduled for January 6, 2021 from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., with the location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 am.

Submitted by Andy Weakland.