

CSU Extension Advisory Committee Meeting
February 29, 2016
Natural Resources Building
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Attendees:

Advisory Committee: Dan Wolford, Kristin Lopez, Annie Conry, Sherrie Rasmussen, Kyle Hanson
Staff: Kevin Miller (Carol O'Meara and Deryn Davidson spoke and then departed.)

Public: Gail Feier, Ed Dawson, Kelsey Dawson, Lauren Pyle, Jeff Weeks, Danielle Weeks, Karen Pyle, Kelly Meyer, Leslie Groshong, Marilyn Way, Richard Weir, LeAnn Dawson, Todd Groshong, Liz Alexander, Kelly Thomas, and Donna Pattee,.

Agenda items:

1. Presentations and discussion with horticulture agents Carol O'Meara and Deryn Davidson

Carol O'Meara reported that there are 4 horticultural staff, and more volunteers than in recent years. Carol is focusing on home horticulture, emerald ash borer, the Colorado Master Gardener Program, and lawn checks. She requested that the advisory board help increase public awareness of these programs via social media "marketing outlets".

Deryn Davidson typically works with larger landscapes such as HOAs. She reported on Peck Orchard at Ollin Farm, which needs to replace trees lost to recent extreme weather; Community Garden's fruit trials and concerns about spotted wing *Drosophila*; the demonstration garden in front of the building; the Native Plant Master program; and the sold-out Landscaping with Colorado Native Plants conference on March 12.

2. Request from a 4H parent to discuss guidelines, due process, and ethical treatment of volunteer 4H leaders in Boulder County.

Approximately 30 members of the public were in attendance. Sixteen people spoke; all were 4H members, parents, or leaders. Some speakers expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be heard. The public statements were moderated by Dan Wolford.

Various speakers made the following requests/ suggestions for improvements:

- There should be a rating system for 4H leaders.
- An evaluation \ feedback process should be put in place for volunteers
- A questionnaire, similar to that used in 2012, should be sent out 2 weeks after Boulder County Fair to rate leaders and help uncover any problematic issues.

3. Letter regarding GM crops on Boulder County land.

A letter from the Extension Advisory Board was sent to the county commissioners.

4. 2016 elections

No quorum was present, so elections were postponed.

5. Staffing updates

The 4H livestock position has been posted and applications received. Rob Alexander is on the search committee, and Sherrie Rasmussen also volunteered to serve on the committee. Kevin has reached out to local groups for input.

A part-time hourly position focusing on EAB is open.

6. Energy project in Lyons

CSU has grant funding to do energy audits for small communities; one was recently performed in Kersey. In Boulder County, Kevin suggested Lyons, and an energy audit is currently in process for that town.

7. Goals for 2016

The following goals were suggested:

- Encourage more public input into advisory board meetings.

- Obtain more information on Extension programs.

- Follow up on the information learned today about the volunteer evaluation process.

- Continue being a voice to the commissioners when appropriate.