



Extension Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2018

The Extension Advisory Committee members in attendance were Dan Wolford, Chair, Kristen Lopez, Kris Watson, Corrina Miller, Sherri Rasmussen, Matt Hess, Hallie Adams, Nadejda Sena, Julia Rudy, Jim Askew, Laine Cavazos, Caroline Himes, Annie Conry. The Extension staff in attendance were Adrian Card, Sharon Bokan, and Donna Lee.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM in the Conference Room at the Natural Resources Building.

1. Welcome new members

Everyone introduced themselves and gave a little background about their interest and experience in or with Boulder County agriculture and the new members were welcomed.

2. Status of Director and Accountant/Program searches

Adrian shared information about the previous Director, Kevin Miller's, resignation and where he was now stating he has been available to staff to provide assistance as needed. He also provided an update on the status of the hiring process for an Extension Director stating they have only received a few applications so far but expect more to come in as the April 12th deadline approaches. Adrian was asked to provide a history of how the Extension came to be and how it has changed over the years and how the collaboration works between federal, state and local government agencies and the community. He stated the Boulder County Extension Office is the largest in the state. Discussion around an emergency management program ensued and Sharon clarified that she does emergency management planning but it is but a small part of the total that fits into the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

3. Program Updates

Sharon gave a PowerPoint presentation as an update on small acreage which is her program area stating she works with landowners who own land for fun not for profit. She discussed site visits, volunteer usage, the Crop Show at the County Fair, the From Our Lands to Your Hands program which is a national award winning program that 1500 4th graders participated in over a 2 day period and where FFA members lead groups on a discovery of where our food comes from. She also discussed the Grazing Study (Soil Health) she has been working on to determine the effects of grazing at different heights. In addition, she explained the Trail Plots outside the

Natural Resources building. Sharon provides numerous workshops: Getting to know rural properties (for Realtors) which 5 counties are involved in planning, Small Acreage Evening Series. She stated there is a Pollinator Action Team as part of the Parks and Open Space Department. She does have a Pollinator Resource Folder that explains what to do to promote pollinators but she didn't have enough copies for everyone but offered to make available if anyone was interested. She talked about the Native Plant Master Program which she co-leads with Deryn Davidson, Horticulture Agent, includes: Basic Botany, Fire Ecology, Caribou Ranch and Betasso courses, Tree Identification Class, Basic Grass Identification and Nature Journaling and Sketching. Sharon stated the office will also be holding Extension 101 for County employees again this year on October 9th at 8:30 AM and the Advisory Board is invited to attend. Each of the Extension Programs will be highlighted by the program staff. Volunteers will be invited if there is room. Ag101 is another workshop that is for teachers and provides continuing education credit. Other projects are: Living in Rural Boulder County resource booklet and STEAMFest (a 2 day science, technology, engineering and math event for families).

Adrian then presented an update on the Agriculture Program area through a PowerPoint presentation. He started with the GE Transition Plan and provided some history about how this issue came to be. He shared the GE phase out through 2022 with Corn (3 years) - 2020 and Beets (5 years) – 2022 which includes neonicotinoids. There is an annual check-in on the progress but a replacement crop for beets has not yet been determined. Adrian stated that most young farmers are interested in more specialty crops (direct market) because the capital costs for large crop farms are too high. Adrian talked about CRISPR which he explained is editing within the same organism and the hope is, therefore, the market may be more acceptable. Matt Hess stated he heard about the Boulder Open Space Conservancy in the city of Boulder were in early talks about planning a farm incubation center in a retail center for research. Adrian shared the Evolving Collaborations he has engaged in: Fostering Ag Community Development, Boulder County Ag Forum, Boulder County Farm Tours (via non-profit), and summer social in August 2017. Adrian shared information about: the Soil Health Conference, Partnering with NRCS, BC POS-Ag, OSMP-Ag, carbon farming project, BC Sustainability Office with CSU as contractor to interview farmers, and what are methods for net carbon sequestration on public land. Adrian shared information about Building Farmers program: Fall 2015 Principles Short Course (low reg), Agri-tourism Fall 2016 (low reg), Not funded for 3rd BFRDP proposal, National Young Farmer Coalition Chapter. Adrian shared the Land Use Code Revisions with a focus on farm sales, agri-tourism, hoophouse/greenhouse and housing. Adrian has been sharing the role of Co-Director since December, 2017. He also stated that the office will continue the flow meter project with vegetable farm water use at 18"/year. Adrian stated that the Extension is but one method out there to provide information but it is also one of the most reliable sources of information out there. Discussion ensued regarding a suggestion to create a data portal that is interactive to collect data.

4. Committee Function

Dan Wolford suggested the bylaws be distributed to everyone via email and the Board will

continue discussion regarding the Boards priorities, action and direction when the new Director is on board. Sharon stated the Board will be receiving an updated contact list and at the request of the Board, the PowerPoint presentation will be sent to everyone as well. Dan asked the Board to be thinking about how the Board can advocate for staff and be the eyes and ears for the Commissioners. Dan directed the Board to hold their ideas and suggestions until they could be discussed as a group. A suggestion was made to create a google drive where Board members can share information and ideas but was tabled for future discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.