



CSU Extension Boulder County
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2020

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM via Teams with the Board of County Commissioners.

Board Members:

Present: Hallie Adams, Rob Alexander, Lanie Cavazos, Joshua Coffie, Mary Mulry, Kate Newberg, Jay Ruggeri, and Betsy Shehigian. Quorum present? Yes

Other Attendees:

Extension staff members in attendance were Allison Appelhans, Sharon Bokan, Adrian Card, Deryn Davidson, Audra Harders, Faith Kroschel, Brenda Kwang, Laura Larson, Carol O'Meara, Dena Theis, Lisa Wallace and Anne Zander.

Board of County Commissioners present were Deb Gardner, Elise Jones and Matt Jones. Also present was Jana Petersen and Eric Lane.

2019 Annual Report for CSU Extension:

Laura presented the Annual Report for 2019 and a copy of the report was provided via email to the commissioners and staff.

The staff who were in attendance gave brief updates on each of their programs and answered many questions that the commissioners had regarding their programs throughout the meeting.

Advisory Board going forward:

The role of the board is two-fold. First, we serve in an advisory capacity to Extension staff and to the commissioners, second, as an informed link between Boulder County citizens and Extension programs. Advocacy for Extension programs and advising Commissioners.

Introductions of each Extension Advisory Board member were made. Discussions were held on what communities they are connected to, why they support Extension, why Extension is vital to the county and what Extension contributes.

On behalf of the Extension Advisory Board and staff, we express our thanks to the County Commissioners for their support and genuine interest with Extension. Boulder County Extension is extraordinary to the great extent of the partnership with Boulder County and Colorado State University, with great recognition of the past and present Board of County Commissioners.

Extension staff have been high performing with great accomplishments, the Commissioners have always been supportive, and our role as an Extension Advisory Board has been easy. Over the last several years, the Extension Advisory Board has evolved to a point to "let's up our game" in terms of how we can contribute to advising the Board of County Commissioners and advocating for Extension staff.

Board of County Commissioners:

Discussions were held on items such as their input to where they think Extension can add value, priorities to further engage with Extension Advisory Board and Extension.

- Great to hear about the passion of the Extension Advisory Board and the enthusiasm is quite contagious.
- Gratifying to hear the great alignment between the priorities and work of Extension and the Strategic Priorities that the Commissioners has laid out to Boulder County around Land and Water Stewardship, Equity and Justice, and Climate.
 - More opportunities for synergies and coordination, particularly cross-learning in our work with the LatinX community.
 - It would be helpful to swap success stories and lessons learned, imagining we are working with the same people out in the field
- Extension does more work than the Commissioners are aware of, along with lots of other employees of Boulder County and citizens.
 - How can others be kept updated and self-educated with the great work that Extension is doing? This would help Commissioners be ambassadors and help connect the dots as the Commissioners go about doing their work.
 - Communication sooner and on a more regular basis would be helpful for the Commissioners.
- Use Extension as a resource of education to other Boulder County departments
 - building relationships over time
 - mutual sharing of best practices, lessons learned
 - Commissioners can help make those connections
- The resources and the expertise within Extension are amazing, the Extension Advisory Board needs to tell that story back to the community better and to tell it to more people.
- Focus Extension effort on the immediate needs of the community
- Beyond the Commissioners, not many community members know of Extension and the great work and all the things offered to them. How do we market all we do even more than we already are? Commissioners can help with connecting to county staff and the people they serve to help in that effort.
- There has been a shift over the makeup of the Extension Advisory Board over the last several years to be a much more actively engaged board. Your previous experience with Extension and knowing what Extension has done for your lives, you bring that passion to your experience here. In total agreement with the goals that have been laid out and the Commissioners job is how do we help you reach those goals to make them happen.
- We have great connections with Land Use, Parks and Open Space, there are some connections with Sustainability, and to Health and Human Services. Cultivating those connections with the employees starting there, then their connections out into the community and how they are doing their work, how can you build those synergies more?
- We have a lot of leadership programs that foster collaboration, but don't believe that Extension gets involved with that. Parks and Open Space and Land Use do, how do we integrate that more, would be very valuable.
- Get time with the new Commissioners, get them out in the field to see stuff and make an impression to remember things. Sooner than later, get the foot in the door and then a follow-up with meeting new Commissioners. An hour, then another hour, then a field trip

- Behavior change is hard, we have an opportunity here for those things we are trying to do, our goals. What would have taken years to accomplish, during this pandemic, we had much success in a short amount of time. Continue to move forward with the same urgency.

Laura wrapped up the meeting with many thanks to the outgoing Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM

Minutes prepared by Dena Theis

The BOCC strategic priorities: Affordable Living, Climate Action, Equity & Justice, Land & Water Stewardship and Organizational & Financial Stewardship.

Please review the 2019-2023 Board of County Commissioners Strategic Priorities <https://inbc.boco.co.boulder.co.us/sites/bocc/Pages/Strategic-Priorities.aspx> for more detail.