



CSU Extension Boulder County
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024

Meeting held at 4:00 PM in Natural Resource Building with the Board of County Commissioners.

Board Members:

Present: Hallie Adams, Rob Alexander, Nick Cappello, Rich OKeefe, Kirsten Ruiz, and Jay Ruggeri.
Absent: Kate Newberg and Mary Mulry

Other Attendees:

Extension staff members in attendance were Kristen Anderson, Emma Dhimitri, Lyndsay Gonzalez, Dena H, Faith Kroschel, Brenda Kwang, Laura Larson, Amy Lippold, Grant Orvis, Tommy Roth, Jeannie Torres, and Lisa Wallace. Absent: Micaela Truslove

Others: Commissioner Ashley Sholzmann, Natalie Springett, Jana Peterson, and Therese Glowacki.

2023 Annual Report and Accomplishments for CSU Extension:

Laura presented the Annual Report for 2023 and a copy of the report was provided via email.

The staff gave updates on each of their programs for 2023 and answered questions that the commissioners had regarding their programs.

Advisory Board:

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. The Advisory Board is here to serve in an advisory capacity to CSU Extension staff and to the county commissioners, and to serve as an informed link from CSU Extension staff and county citizens.

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.

- The Boulder County Commissioners' strategic priorities for 2024-2026 are economic security and social stability, climate action and environmental stewardship, and good governance. This team

of commissioners have strong passions for soil health and agriculture. Why it is so important to them, it is the fundamental building stone for the community.

- Extensions agriculture work, community health and children, and all the work Extension does, it impacts all our core values, and it is important.
- If you look at what is happening with climate change, we have a lot of work to do to reduce emissions. This is a space where we need to do a better job of sequestering carbon from our lands.
- It's a really hard time to be a farmer in our community, or a gardener. Commissioners have received calls from farmers because of the increased minimum wage in Boulder County. People can't afford to live in our community on the federal minimum wages.
- How does Extension help with business plans for farmers, how can we make sure programs like growing food for the schools, and how do we connect schools to the contracting to buy from local farmers?
- Creating systems and connections, create a healthy environment for all in the community. Brilliant to hear what everyone is working on, exciting and it all goes along with our strategic values.
- Getting connections in the schools are very difficult. It would be helpful if we can use the commissioners voice to let school districts know that we do want to build those partnerships with them. Using those networks to let the schools know.
- Something new this year, commissioners will be sending out newsletters to the community, maybe something can be added regarding Extension programming.
- Extension's work is helping Parks and Open Space fulfil its 2025 goals of more engagement with diverse communities and your work shows the growth that we are making. More connections within Parks and Open Space can be made to complement each other's work.
- Thank you to the board members for volunteering your time to the Advisory Board.

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. Do keep us in mind with all these issues, we are here to support you. We can always go to CSU faculty with questions, so you will always have science-based information that you are using for your issues.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM

Minutes prepared by Dena H