



CSU Extension Boulder County  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
December 2, 2024

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM via Zoom.

**Board Members:**

Present: Hallie Adams, Nick Cappello, Mary Mulry, and Kirsten Ruiz

Absent: Donna Becker, Jay Ruggeri, and Rob Alexander Quorum present? Yes

**Boulder County Extension Staff:**

Eric Hammond, Dena H, Faith Kroschel and Brenda Kwang were in attendance.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Agenda of the Extension Advisory Board was presented, Hallie motioned to approve, Kirsten second; all were in favor.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion: Hallie motioned that the September 3, 2024, minutes of the Extension Advisory Board be approved as presented, Kirsten seconded that motion; all were in favor.

**Conversation with the 4-H Team:**

Brenda and Faith presented 2024 enrollments, highlights, challenges and goals for the 4-H year.

- Enrollments: 355 youth members, 188 adult volunteers, 616 4-H projects
- Highlights:  
Community engagement outreach: Our Lands to Your Hands, Duck for President, Cinco de Mayo, Embryology, Summer Outreach, Viva la Cabra, Fair, 4-H Open House, 4-H Cloverbud Club, 4-H Achievement Night. Colorado 4-H Leadership activities: Leadership Camp, Leadership Development Conference, Junior Jam.
- Challenges: Had an incident during fair, used Restorative Justice Program with all parties invoiced to resolve the conflict.
- Goals: growth and improvement of the 4-H team, dedicated time to goals and tasks, growth out of COVID with new clubs, new volunteers, and new people.
- Questions:
  1. Do you feel you are reaching parity within the community or are there groups that are not connected to 4-H that we would like to see have that connection?

With parity, we are close to having representation of what our audience is. There is always room for opportunity and growth.

2. Are there certain events that the board should attend?

If there is anything that sparks your interest, please come. The things you can do to help us is invite people that you know who have kids, or you know someone who has a talent or is just really great with kids or wants to give back to the community.

How can the board spread the word about Boulder County 4-H? 4-H team created a [Communications Pathways page](#) to make it easier to share information. It highlights our Website, Clover Gazette newsletter, the 4-H Calendar, and all our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok).

Here's how you can help:

- Follow us on social media and encourage others to do the same.
- Like and share our posts to highlight events and achievements.

3. What's the philosophy of 4-H and what sets them apart from other youth development programs? What is the heart of 4-H?

4-H is about a sense of belonging. We give kids and families a place to be. The projects 4-H offers are a hook for having youth development in those kids learning life skills. 4-H is a premier youth development organization across the world. We focus on that relationship between a caring adult and youth member. The youth learn that their value is being themselves and what they can bring to the table. A longer-term program, kids that are very successful in 4-H are in it for 8 years, even some coming back to be volunteer leaders. A true family program. 4-H is a good match for the challenges that youth are facing today.

4. How do you encourage more people to be involved, with a preconceived notion that 4-H is just for farm kids?

We have over 100 projects that are not all related to livestock, pretty much if you are interested in something, we offer that project. Skills that kids acquire in 4-H are skills they would have trouble finding in the modern world. We prepare them to speak in front of their peers and adults. Interviews with jobs, you can pick the candidates who were involved with 4-H. They are professional, comfortable talking with other people, represent themselves well. 4-H is a good match with challenges young people are facing.

5. Have you thought about incorporating the Restorative Justice Program within the 4-H program?

We respond from time to time to different clubs who might have challenges, could be personality types with individuals, youth and/or parents. We learn from past experiences on how to respond. We tend to be more proactive on situations and prepare up front for conflict management that may occur verses responding after a crisis. For example, here's how we handle difficult people, here's how to have hard conversations. We try to develop those skills within our adult leaders, as they are the ones in the front line. The adult leaders elevate to 4-H leaders when it becomes a bigger problem. We are more on the prevention side.

### **Extension Advisory Board Updates:**

- A. Rich O'Keefe moved to Gunnison County and will no longer be on the Extension Advisory Board.
- B. Election of new chair. Tabled until next meeting.

## **Director's Update:**

### *Current CSU and County staffing*

- Vacant Sustainable Landscapes Specialist search is underway. 4-5 good candidates. Interviews will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> with local committee in the morning and with search committee in the afternoon.

### *Extension program updates*

- Horticulture team have new Master Gardeners coming in as apprentices.
- Agriculture will be working to bring back Beginner Farmer to Boulder County.
- Ag/Small Acreage Management - Lyndsay assisting with the Soil Revolution Conference to be held on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

### *Budgets*

Both CSU and county will have a flat budget for fiscal year 2025.

## **Open Discussion:**

- A. Update By-Laws.
  - Will add to agenda on future meeting to review.
- B. Any interest in having in-person board meetings?
  - There is some interest, Eric will continue to think about it.
- C. Review feedback from board regarding what works well and what doesn't with the board's functionality/effectiveness. Tabled until future meeting.
- D. Feedback on website/communication/factsheets – will add to agenda for a focused discussion at next board meeting. CSU is working on a project called Learner Front Door to standardize the digital presence of CSU across all platforms. How do we communicate better to the community?
- E. How do we encourage folks to volunteer? Need to bring in more resources for a better decision, table for later.
- F. March Board Meeting
  - Dena will create a doodle poll for this meeting.

## **Old Business:**

None

## **The meeting adjourned**

Minutes prepared by Dena.

[2024-2026 Boulder County Commissioners' Strategic Priorities](#): Economic Security and Social Stability, Climate Action and Environmental Stewardship, and Good Governance.