

**EXTENSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2019**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Daryl Weist	Deanna Herbert	Lori Stevens
Amy Lentz	Gary Shaneman	Pat Kindvall
Jennifer Finch	Josh Docheff	Ron Marshall
Keith Maxey	Michelle Langston-Minutes	Commissioner Scott James

ABSENT:

Amy Cooksey	Brad Walker
Gail Fiolkoski	Sean Short

Chair Daryl Wiest welcomed the group and called the meeting of the Weld County Extension Advisory Council to order at 12:05 p.m. Minutes from the August 15, 2019 meeting were approved as written. Daryl commented that the County's appreciation event for volunteer members of boards and councils was well attended.

Amy Lentz, Weld County Extension Agent, Horticulture/Agriculture, gave an update on the Colorado Master Gardener (CMG) program in Weld County. Sunshine Gearhart was brought on board earlier in the year as Coordinator for the CMG program. The CMGs have a "tree team" to help homeowners assess tree issues and diseases. Amy noted that she has expanded her work in the agriculture issues. She helped coordinate a wheat field day in Roggen and has done several alfalfa field assessments. She is working with the wind farm near Pawnee Buttes to advise on grass varieties to use during reclamation. Weld Extension will host Annie's Project which is an educational program to strengthen women's roles in modern farm and ranch enterprises. Six training dates in 2020 have been scheduled in February and March. Other activities include work with small acreage owners; working with the City of Greeley on crops that can be planted underneath solar panels on their solar farms; and learning more hemp production. She plans to attend a training in Florida in December to become certified in Farm Readiness Reviews for producer farmers.

Keith gave the Extension Director's update. Jenn Eastwood, Fair Coordinator, has returned from maternity leave and is back in the office on an intermittent basis. However, she has turned in her resignation, so the position has been advertised with an application deadline of October 31. Amber Webb, Family & Consumer Science Agent, had her baby on September 27th and is expected to be out of the office on maternity leave until the end of the year. Patrick Pulis' position will be full time, effective November 1, by partnering with an Imagine Science grant through CSU. A new 7-member Fair Board was appointed October 2nd by the Commissioners. Members are: Elijah Hatch-President, Mike Frink-Vice-President, Isaia Aricayos-Secretary, Katharine Lotspeich-Treasurer, Tom Bledsoe, Christie Gabel and Neil Temmer. The Extension Fall Forum is next week in Fort Collins so most of the program staff will be out for part, or all next week.

Jennifer Finch, Weld County Communications Director, was present to update the council on how her department supports Extension, and other County departments, with media related issues and projects. Following discussion, it was moved and seconded to change the "media" position on the Council to one

represented by someone from the “energy” field. Motion passed. This will require a bylaw amendment which will be considered at the December meeting.

Commissioner Scott James reported that the County will be conducting budget work sessions next week. Weld County is continuing to grow, and we will be adding about 75 new employees in 2020. Twenty 29 of those will be in the Sherriff’s office. We are in the process of finishing the jail and should be complete in 2020. Work is also being done on the 2020 comprehensive land use plan.

With no new business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is December 19, 2019.