

**EXTENSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2021**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Josh Docheff
Larry Hooker
Ron Marshall
William Owsley
Gary Schaneman
Lori Stevens
Cindy Nosko-Minutes

Olga Gonzalez
Pat Kindvall
Erin Mathews
Commissioner Saine
Sean Short
Daryl Weist
Kim Eastwood-4-H Program Update

ABSENT:

Amy Cooksey

Daryl Wiest welcomed the group and called the meeting of the Weld County Extension Advisory Council to order at 12:00 p.m. Daryl asked for any comments on the annual meeting. It was a good program by Steve Wiest, Global Business Director and Randy Martin PhD, Global Technical Development Specialist of Valent BioSciences LLC. The program was very information and good, but very confusing as the sound kept cutting out as they were talking. Valent BioSciences is a worldwide leader in the research, development and commercialization of highly effective low-risk, environmentally compatible technologies and products for the agricultural, public health, forestry, and household markets.

Kim Eastwood gave an update on the 4-H program. It's been a couple of years since I last gave an update since we didn't have one last year due to the pandemic. We were pretty much shut down from March to about June with no in person contact or events. The 4-H leaders than began to look for a way to connect to their groups in some sort of manner such as zoom or other virtual platform to keep in contact with the members. They were also emailing or texting the youth to keep them engaged. There were a few things that were done virtually. The Speech contest was virtual, which made it a little more difficult than giving it in person. We sent out weekly challenges to try and promote some activities for the kids. Come June, we were able to start meeting in small groups so we kicked off with Shooting Sports and clubs were able to start meeting again as long as they were spread out and to do it outside if possible. We were probably the only county that started the public meeting/events in June although it did back off again in the fall. Last year in February, we did Camp Cloverbud in person before everything shut down. We did a virtual one in July and had Youth Exec kids, some of which were royalty come in and record How-To videos. We released 1 video a day the first part of July that walked the kids through a project. We made up 50 kits for the different video projects that the kids could do. The first 50 people were able to come up and pick up the kits at no charge and the rest, we were able to provide them and inexpensive list of what items would be needed to complete each project. Most of the items could be purchased at the Dollar Store so it was an inexpensive way to be able to have the youth participate. This allowed the kids to once a day make something in an activity wise indoors or out. We did get a lot of good feedback from this. The kits were gone within about 2 days of us putting out a notification, so we got a lot of interest in doing this. This past February we were able to do an in-person Camp Cloverbud and we modified it to where we still had about 50 kids come, but we split into two shifts with them spread out to do the activities.

Currently we have about 980 kids that are currently in the 4-H program, enrolled. We also have the Outreach side which Patrick does and not sure how many he works with there. He will be doing the program update in October and he will be able to give you more information on that then.

State Conference cancelled last year. This is where the kids compete in different activities for national level and there is also a leadership aspect. Since we couldn't get the kids to this from all over the state, we organized a mini state conference for our kids to do that virtually. There was not a leadership activity included in that. So, a retired FFA leader came and did a day workshop for them about teamwork, goals, leadership, etc. We then took them to Fort Fun afterward so that they could have a fun outdoor activity and bond with the others in the group. We're hoping to do more gatherings now that things have started to relax and have more in person events and activities.

Larry gave us the director's report. Since Stella, our EFNEP educator, retired in May of 2020, there has been no changes yet as to whether her position will be filled or not. Otherwise, at this time we currently are fully staffed in the office which is good to have a full house.

Programming is beginning to loosen up right now coming from CSU, so we can do a little more in person rather than virtual. Right now, CSU is not requiring the COVID approval forms to be filled out unless you are staying overnight or traveling out of state.

County Fair will be held again this year, hopefully with fewer restrictions than they had last year. Final scheduling is underway for the fair book can be printed and we'll have more on that as we get closer to the fair dates.

Just received the initial phase of the 2022 Weld County budget from the Budget manager. I will be setting up a meeting with Jennifer Oftelie next week to go over a few things regarding the process. The state budget operates on a July 1-June 30 fiscal year so have not received much information from CSU about what the 2021-22 budget will be.

Commissioner Lori Saine gave the Commissioner's report. Knee deep in farmers right now trying to figure out the greenhouse gas and am working with the state and air quality control commission. We are currently working in different areas as Weld County is the #1 ag in the state and we want to be able to benefit our farmers.

Larry Hooker gave everyone an update on the CSU Community Needs Assessment. The assessment is still on track. I've been doing key interviews in the different areas of the assessment. The information that I gather will be given to CSU by the end of the month, then they're going to put together a survey that will go out to a broader audience to gain more information for further study. We will then look at it and bring those results back to this group to talk about where we go from there, which areas apply to Extension and which areas don't. Got quite a bit of information, we had a county profile that we did and one of the things that came out was high school graduation rates were not as high in the Johnstown/Milliken area as in other counties, so contacted the school district and got a hold of the superintendent and was given contradictory information and that they were a lot better than what was stated. Doing one on one interviews with people and making a spreadsheet putting the information together, then we'll pull some key points and put it on the CSU documentation. We're also looking at the workforce in Weld County. Talking to Weld County Employment Service about what they're doing and what is currently happening in Weld County. Some of the information from CSU is kind of vague such as promote a healthy economy and business development. We agree on that point but how to go about it is a little vague. Gang violence in the city of Greeley, lengthy into a lengthy conversation with the Greeley PD about the issue and what it's all about. So, I'm working on the different aspects of the Assessment to give to CSU. Hopefully by the end of the year it will come to a head. If we don't get enough, I would like to see us do one for Weld County next year. The assessment is not available yet as it is still in the information gathering stage.

No new business was brought up so the next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2021, and Sheila, Family and Consumer Science will be giving the program update. It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.