

**EXTENSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2021**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Amy Cooksey

Olga Gonzalez

Ron Marshall

Will Nelson

Commissioner Saine (Zoom)

Sean Short

Cindy Nosko - Minutes

Josh Docheff

Pat Kindvall

Erin Mathews

Will Owsley

Gary Schaneman

Patrick Pulis – STEM program update

ABSENT:

Larry Hooker

Daryl Wiest

Lori Stevens

Amy Cooksey welcomed the group and called the meeting of the Weld County Extension Advisory Council to order at 12:10 p.m.

Gay Schaneman motioned that the June meeting minutes be approved, and Josh Docheff seconded the motion.

Patrick Pulis gave an update on the endowment/STEM program. From when he started at CSU Extension, Patrick has had 10,384 total youth contacts that he's served, 2,818 youth have participated in monthly 1-hour STEM programs from stick catapults to rocketry. Patrick has held 15 pollinator camps that were 3-5 days long serving at least 12 youth per camp. He managed 2 grants that included the pollinator habitat program, Imagine Science, and the 4-H at home program. There were 1,759 views of the 11 virtual programs on the "Our Energy" series that was done in response to COVID 19. Patrick developed 7 pollinator magazines that are now feature on the National 4-H website at 4-H.org. He also taught 3 "Imagine Science" camps that included a 3-day Mars Camp, a 5-day Energy Camp and a 15-day coding camp. He also developed an energy curriculum including a 45-page workbook with 15 hands-on activities and lessons.

A program now being worked on is the CIDSEE (COVID-Inspired Data Science Education Through Epidemiology) project captures that opportunity with a Data Detectives Club program that increases youth understanding of data principles and epidemiological science. The Data Detective Clubs provide data activities, discussion and challenges built around a science adventure novel titled "The Case of the COVID Crisis". In the novel, two middle school students travel through time and space under the guidance of a teenager from the future to learn about epidemics of the past and the present. The characters learn about Measles, Smallpox, Ebola, COVID and more as they visit places that include Ohio, Pittsburgh, the Congo, Bangladesh, Navajo Nation and Washington DC. Each of the ten chapters is accompanied by a set of questions for discussion, data-related activities and a podcast of characters discussing data and emotional or ethical aspects of the pandemic. The club sessions often include a visit from various data or epidemiology professionals or a brief animated video illustrating aspects of the science of viruses and vaccines. Each club can then culminate with youth designing and presenting data-based public service announcements to a community audience of their choice.

Over the next two years, partners within the National Imagine Science network will have the opportunity to implement Data Detectives Clubs. The project aligns with "Imagine Science" priorities to target underserved and unrepresented youth in grades 4-8. Program implementation takes 15-20 hours and can

be in-person, virtual or hybrid. The implantation support will include funding for the clubs, staff training, and supply kits with the program materials and copies of the novel.

In Larry's absence, Cindy gave the Director's report. For the seasonal Weld County Fair staff, the data entry clerk and intern have completed their work for the year as with the 4-H interns who have also completed their work for the year.

With the departure of Nancy Gogreve in June, we are in the hiring process for the now combined Admin/Fair assistant position. The top five applicants will be interviewed on Monday, August 23rd. The start date will be determined once decision is made.

The county budget is in process and one staff request to the 2022 budget is to complement the ½ time 4-H Endowment position to make it full time. This is proposed as a 3-year plan with a declining amount paid by the county every year as we work through the second phase of the fund-raising effort. We have also made minor adjustments to other areas of the budget. The next step is a work session with the Commissioners on September 21st.

As for the County Director position, interviews were held on August 12th and August 13th. The decision should be finalized by Friday, August 27th.

Commissioner Lori Saine had no program update for the Council at this time.

With no further business or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next Council meeting will be on October 21st at noon at the Extension, with a program update by Jenette Masarie, Weld County Fair.