

Larimer County Extension Advisory Committee Minutes
July 1, 2020

Members present on zoom:

Pam Harrold, Matt Halloran, Regan Thomas, Maia Potts, Pilar Jorgensen, John Kefalas, Sue Schneider, Fred McClanahan, Jr., Kerri Rollins, Kathy Mason, Michael Murphree, & David Koons.

Excused: Richard Tingey

The meeting was called to order at 8:05am.

The minutes of the May 6, 2020 meeting were approved.

Agent Report

Sue Schneider gave a report on her Health and Wellness programming in Larimer County.
(see power point presentation)

Report on Programs

Items mentioned at today's meeting from the agenda ...

General: Covid updates, waivers for site visits, office is still closed, and staff are working remotely. Several applications for advisory committee members so may have new folks at the September meeting.

4-H: Katie Daywalker has accepted the 4-H Agent position. She starts August 10.

Horticulture: The numbers of individuals taking virtual gardening classes on Zoom has average around 250 per class. The Farmers' Market attendance is averaging 1,500 people per week and the market is moving into Phase 2 which is reorganizing the layout.

Food and Nutrition: Amber will be offering virtual food preservation classes.

Ag & Natural Resources: Conducting site visits for small acreages. Disseminating twelve fact sheets from CSU on wolf reintroduction questions in preparation of the ballot measure in November.

Community Development: FLTI will hold the next Democracy in Action call on July 6th at 6:00pm.

County Fair and Covid Updates

The Ranch, except for the Budweiser Events Center, has been leased by the State of Colorado as an alternate care facility. It is a good thing for our community to have this as a backup to our hospitals. This also provides revenue to The Ranch since they would not be able to hold events with the pandemic restrictions. This does make it more difficult to try to run a County Fair. Many state fairs across the nation have canceled their events, and several county fairs in Colorado have canceled.

We will be able to have a modified version of our county fair, but there will be no public allowed, no vendors, no carnival, no entertainment and we will have some kind of 4-H competitions which may or may not be virtual. We are trying to navigate through guideline set by CSU, Larimer County, and the state with very limited access to the fairgrounds. Our website is a continual work in progress with updates. One big concern is that the 4-H members have not been able to attend club meeting, workshops, and practices.

We have had a few work sessions with the county commissioners, trying to decide if we can do anything at all or is there room to navigate some sort of a fair experience. They were very excited that there is a potential to offer something. When CSU acknowledged we could honor our county guidelines vs. the 10-person state guidelines, we were able to come up with some options of what we would be able to do. We would also need to provide PPE for everyone who comes. This is an ongoing learning process since we have never done a fair like this before and no one else has either.

Judging of general and family & consumer projects will still happen, but without the interview component. The Ranch is renting the Embassy Suites ballrooms and 4-H member can drop off their projects for judging. Model rocketry will still take place in a field on The Ranch campus. With any of these events we must submit waivers to CSU Extension and the Larimer County Health Department. County Shoots for shooting sports will take place by appointment so we can monitor number attending those venues at one time. Fashion Revue will hopefully happen virtually.

There will be no rabbit show due to the rabbit hemorrhagic virus. A 4-H livestock show is planned with a reduced number of classes and number animals that can be shown due to the limited space available. Currently, only one parent per 4-H member can accompany them to the show due to the limited number of people that can be on the grounds at a specific time. Several individuals are not happy with these decisions because it will not look and feel like a regular show. The Junior Livestock Sale committee adapted to the show we were able to put on so they will be doing a virtual sale at Centennial Livestock Auction in Fort Collins at the end of fair.

Our staff has been amazing through these times. We have many more vocal supporters thanking us for being able to do anything at all.

This year, the fair is going to be a partnership between Extension and the staff at The Ranch. We will decide if this is going to be a permanent transition for future years as this is how other counties do it.

There are funds available to pay for PPE that can be used for supplies needed at the County Fair. We are in contact with the Larimer County Health Department should the guidelines, requirements, and numbers of people being allowed changes ... particularly the number of accompanying parents per 4-H member.

There is a possibility of being able to use an outdoor arena for larger livestock species (horses and cattle) and the Budweiser Events Center for the smaller species (sheep, goats, and pigs). Being able to show outdoors is much safer from a health standard than indoors. All livestock and horse shows will be a "show and go" which means exhibitors would be scheduled to arrive at a certain time, unload, show in their class, and then load up and leave before the next group arrives.

Community Assessment Update

We have continued to work with David Koons and Michael Murphree from the Larimer County I.T. department and had a good staff retreat with them on June 19. Information gathered to date from IRISS data, interviews, focus group information and spent time looking at our values, our strengths and weaknesses, what are our opportunities and constraints. There was also discussion about Historical Milestones of Larimer County Extension and what has shaped us to who we are today.

Staff Changes

Fred McClanahan, Jr., the Senior Administrative Assistant at Larimer County Extension Office for almost 31 years announced his retirement which would happen in late August or early September.

Other Business

Sue Schneider posted a link to a Covid Expert Panel on Thursday, July 2.

Note for the September meeting from Reagan to discuss Extension Showcase. Possibly changing it up to some other tool to market Extension. Regan, Kerri, and Maia hope to get together to have some discussion before the next meeting. Pam mentioned that with Covid, this might be a good chance to re-invent what showcase looks like and a create a good opportunity to see other ways to manage it. Commissioner Kefalas offered to give feedback after the group meets.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 2, 2020, 8am – 10am.

Submitted by Fred McClanahan, Jr.