

Dodge County Extension Board and Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Dodge County Extension Board was brought to order by Kelly Abrahams, Extension Board Chair at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2024, at Nebraska Extension Office located at 1206 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fremont, NE.

Current Board Members Present: Kelly Abrahams, Mary Lou Pycha, Jill Gossett, Bonnie Nebuda and Chris Raasch. A quorum was present. Staff members Lisa Poppe, Ian Peterson, Beth Nacke, Shane Ahrens, Mailson Oliveira and Alaina Kauffman were in attendance. Angie Heller Extension Zone #8 Coordinator was also in attendance.

The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available to review as it is posted in the meeting room.

No additional items were added to the agenda. Mary Lou Pycha made a motion to approve the agenda and Bonnie Nebuda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The minutes from the January 24 and March 11, 2024 meetings were reviewed. Chris Raasch made a motion to approve the minutes of both meetings and Bonnie Nebuda seconded. Motion carried.

Lisa Poppe presented the General Tax and Extension Program revolving account financial reports with no questions. Mary Lou Pycha made a motion to approve the budgeted and program account financials and Bonnie Nebuda seconded. Motion carried.

No unfinished business. New business – NACEB Summer Meeting in O’Neill June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Angi will provide more details in her report.

#### Updates from Council / Boards / Staff

Shane’s 4H Council report – preparations for fair and fundraisers; June 13<sup>th</sup> family livestock judging at the fairgrounds.

Shane presented for Board Engagement – school enrichment highlights about life cycle programming and ag literacy with chicken egg incubation and other livestock presentations at the Ag Literacy Festival; pollinator education with butterfly life cycle and Farm-in-a-Glove.

Beth updated about Healthy Habits – CATCH Kids PE for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Exercise Your Options for middle school; GTN and Little Free Pantry updates.

Lisa Poppe discussed Read for Resilience program to support youth coping skills with trauma and other experiences and emotions.

Mailson Freire de Oliveira gave an update on his role in Digital Ag publication review updates and On Farm Research; highlighted programming on drone mapping and presenting about drones at the Ag Literacy Festival.

Alaina updated on summer intern being hired, Build-a-Hut programming, other important dates and programs.

Ian updated on clientele questions coming in – mostly about weeds and trees not coming out of dormancy well; he is continuing programming about pollinators and home vegetable gardening; he is part of a couple raised bed projects – one in Dakota county where raised beds were provided to families and a grant in Dixon County for using raised beds and different treatments to educate about best practices to the public. The gentleman with large rocks in his yard in Fremont called in about lawn alternatives to plant to fill in the rest of the space.

Angie Heller gave details about the NACEB summer meeting, with Lisa describing her experience with the meeting in Omaha last summer; she is working on board training topics/opportunities to be presented to members at the board meetings to continue to increase engagement and empowerment in their role; Nav Ghamire is the newly-hired Associate Dean overseeing WCS, Livestock, HLES, Ag Profitability and starting in June; Spanish 101 is an exciting new opportunity for Extension personnel; FNEP/4H assistant starting salary increasing to 40,000 starting.

Jill Gossett briefly discussed Kids Learning and Safety awareness classes at the hospital for young people staying home alone.

Bonnie Nebuda moved to adjourn the meeting. Mary Lou Pycha seconded. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting August 12, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

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