



Dodge County Extension Board Meeting Minutes
April 10th, 2023

The regular meeting of the Dodge County Extension Board was brought to order by Dean Castillo, Extension Educator at 4:00 pm on Monday, April 10th, 2023, at the temporary meeting space on 935 Schneider St, Fremont, NE.

Board Members Present: Mary Lou Pycha, Joel Kerkman, Rossana Jaeger, Sid Ready, and Bonnie Nebuda. Quorum present. Pat Tawney representing the Dodge County Board of Supervisors was in attendance. Staff members Dean Castillo, Shane Ahrens and Angi Heller were also in attendance.

Dean Castillo announced that the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available to review as it was brought to the meeting space.

No additional items were placed on the agenda, and it was approved as written.

Introductions for Board members that were able to join us for the first time including Bonnie Nebuda. Angi Heller introduced herself, as this was the first meeting present with some of the board members.

Extension Board members reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Sid Ready moved to accept the minutes as presented. Bonnie Nebuda seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dean Castillo presented the financial reports for review and explained how the different accounts were used. Bonnie Nebuda moved to accept the financial reports as presented. Rossana Jaeger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

The main talking point for the NACEB legislative day was discussed, and the importance of the UNL Budget to support Nebraska Extension. Dean Castillo and Angi Heller summarized the information they shared with Senator Lynn Walz at this meeting. Extension Board members are encouraged to attend in 2024. State Senators enjoy hearing from EB members. Several EB members from outside of Dodge Co (but still in Extension Zone 8) attended to represent NACEB.

Angi shared a summary of the IANR Vice Chancellor Boehm's visit to Fremont. There were several attendees from Fremont. Some of the issues that were voiced were how is UNL playing a role in nitrates. One idea was shared of how FFA and 4-H can partner in stream cleanups/water monitoring. Another comment was about swine resources, and the balance on what extension focuses on and where there might be opportunities for expansion.

Another discussion topic was keeping NE youth in NE, and how UNL extension can work to facilitate this. EB members are encouraged to contact VC Boehm for more information or if they have other ideas they would like to share.

New Business - None

Updates from Council / Boards / Staff

Shane Ahrens reported on the 4-H Program in Dodge County. The Public Speaking Event will be held at the Masonic Home at 6pm on Thursday April 20th.

Lisa Poppe provided a handout to highlight programming – see attached.

Dean Castillo summarized how the 4-H program is using embryology to bridge ag and science literacy. Gave an example of how the 4-H staff can assess gain of knowledge based on Nebraska State Science Standards for 1st grade.

Engagement Zone Coordinator Update - Angi announced the hiring on Ian Peterson for the Horticulture Educator with a start date of June 1. She shared Ian's background in community involvement. Angi announces resignation of Nate Dorsey, and that Luan Oliveira (Burt County) will be leaving extension in July.

The requests to begin the process for new hires has been initiated. We reviewed the new dual-track listing where Instructors can be hired under certain conditions with a bachelors degree, with the expectation that they will earn their masters degree within 5 years.

Angi updated that the RPN educator with accountability in Dodge, Ben Jewell, moved to Otoe County extension, and this replacement would be opening soon as well.

The board discussed questions about the level of sponsorships for wither H1B visas and green cards as part of extension and how this places constraints on recruitment and retention of educators.

Extension Board Member Narratives - Joel shared a conversation he had with an individual who was asking how information about Extension in shared outside of 4-H. The board then discussed how we might be able to use PTA/PTO, teachers, etc to share information about extension programming. Dean and Shane gave an example of how they use Standards to communicate programming with teachers and administrators.

Dodge County Board of Supervisors Update - Pat Tawney discussed issues with human waste (biosolid) used on farms. He updated projects on Flood Control: North Bend Cutoff Road, Rawhide Creek, East Elkhorn District Drainage Ditch

These projects rely on federal grants and would be 4 years away from action but require federal approval.

Road Projects are progressing, but Hwy 79 is still a mess. There is discussion of transferring individuals from Saunders Co to Washington Co. The new 800 Radio is up and running.

Pat at the Extension Board wanted to thank Tom Smith for his efforts in helping make the new meeting room location a success.

Joel Kerkman made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Rossana Jaeger seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

June 12, 2023 4:00 p.m. – Extension Board Meeting to be held at Dodge County Extension Office 1206 W 23rd St Fremont NE