

Dodge County Extension Board Meeting Minutes
February 13, 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, February 13, 2023, at the Dodge County Extension Office, 1206 West 23rd Street, Fremont, NE.

Board Members Present: Kathy Kneifl, Mary Lou Pycha, Joel Kerkman, Kristie Mehaffey and Rossana Jaeger. Quorum present. Visitor Sid Ready was in attendance and informed those present that he would accept the nomination for a member of the Dodge County Extension Board. Staff members Dean Castillo, Beth Nacke, Nate Dorsey, Lisa Poppe, Shane Ahrens and Mary Spath were also in attendance.

Dean Castillo announced that the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available to review as it was posted on the wall of the meeting room.

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

Lisa Poppe presented the financial reports for review and explained how the different accounts were used. Mary Lou Pycha moved to accept the financial reports as presented. Kathy Kneifl seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

As this was the first meeting of the 2023 year, election of officers was addressed.

Nominations for each office were accepted and with unanimous votes the following results are recorded

Chair – Kathy Kneifl

Vice-Chair – Joel Kerkman

Secretary – Mary Lou Pycha

Unfinished Business – None brought forward.

New Business –

NACEB Legislative Day is scheduled for March 28, 2023 in Lincoln. Kathy Kneifl updated members on what the day consists of and urged board members to attend.

Dean Castillo updated the board on the upcoming interviews of two candidates for the Horticulture, Landscape and Environmental Systems position. Interviews will be held on Thursday, February 16 at the Extension Office. Dean invited board members to participate in the interviews.

Lisa Poppe explained to those present about the upcoming repairs that will be done in our building during the month of April. Plumbing, carpeting, lighting, and paint to the main office and each of the Educators offices will be handled by the Building and Grounds Superintendent. Since the office will not be an ideal place for the next Extension Board meeting, scheduled for April 10, 2023, we will meet at 935 Schneider Street meeting space.

Updates from Council / Boards / Staff

Shane Ahrens reported on the 4-H Program in Dodge County. New officers were elected and committees were formed at the January 11, 2023 meeting. Shane reported that the 4-H Council included in their budget \$1000 to support School Enrichment.

1206 W. 23rd St. / Fremont, NE 68025-2504
(402) 727-2775 / Fax (402) 727-2777 / E-mail: Dodge-County@unl.edu / Internet: <http://dodge.unl.edu>

4-H online enrollment is now open and to date 65 youth and 27 adults have started or completed their enrollments. Deadline to enroll is June 15 (over 200 youth signed up in 2022). 4-H leaders were updated January 12, on 4-H policy and how to engage their club members. 4-H Clubs are starting to meet, and an archery discipline is added to the Shooting Sports club. April 20, 2023 will be the Public Speaking Contest and will be held at the Masonic Home. Presentation, Impromptu speeches are being added to the prepared speech and public service awareness categories. Market beef weigh day was held Feb 5, 2023, at the Masonic Home with 15 head being weighed. There is a Rabbit Workshop scheduled for March 8th here at the Extension office. A workshop schedule is being developed for summer. Camp Opportunities are available to youth this year closer to Dodge County. Scholarships awarded at Achievement Celebration can be applied to workshop registration fees. The 2023 Dodge County Fair book is in process of being updated. YQCA trainings will also take place in March and April.

Lisa Poppe presented a snapshot of her 2022 programs. Highlighted were One Hour, Once a Month – Fit and Healthy Kids – web-based training sessions. On-Demand Classes – two hours of continuing education classes for early childhood professionals that they can take at their own pace. The Co-Parenting for Successful Kids program requires parents who are in the process of divorce or paternity proceeding to take a class on communication. Lisa is a Certified Professional Development Specialist for the CDA Program and a Rooted in Relationships Coach. Lisa also helped plan a Virtual Conference on Mindfulness with hands-on experiences and interactions for the childcare providers who attended.

Dean Castillo presented on the intentional planning of inserting STEM into all the areas of 4-H and After School programming. He updated the group on the School Enrichment classes of Embryology, Farm in a Glove, and the Agriculture Literacy Festival along with the Fremont High School Career Day that he will be teaching. Dean also focused on the workshops and camps that are being developed with local staff.

Nate Dorsey talked about the upcoming Private Applicator trainings that he will be teaching. The Fremont Corn Expo was held the end of January and he is processing the evaluations that were received. Nate informed us about the grant that he and Dean Castillo received and plan to attend the Fremont EcoFair with a Soil Health display and interactive activities for the students that attend. Nate is working on UNL CropWatch podcast which started its 5th season. He is adding video component on UNLs CropWatch YouTube channel. Nate also talked about the work he is doing on Part 107 drone certification class and the plan to have a Drones in Ag Conference in August of 2023.

Beth Nacke reported on the Lift Project that she is working on with the Dept of Education. Twenty school district are involved with the goal of getting local foods into the school district for their lunch program. She continues to work on the Monthly Meal Project which is in eleven counties and helps approximately 300 students. Beth also talked about the continued progress of the Growing Together Nebraska gardens and the Nutrient Science/Health Class at the Middle School. She also continues to work with the Marathon Kid program and the Catch PE program targeting the 4th grade class. She will utilize a summer intern to help with summer programming.

Dean Castillo explained to those present about the regional Educators serving Dodge County; Ben Jewel, Rural Prosperity, Alfredo DiCostanzo, Beef Systems, Jordan Luxa, Food, Nutrition & Health.

Dean Castillo gave the board members a card that gave them suggestions on ways to visit with community members about Extension and asked that they report back at the next meeting how the discussions went.

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

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

April 10, 2023 4:00 p.m. – Extension Board Meeting to be held at Dodge County Meeting Room, 935 Schneider Street, Fremont