

Dodge County Extension Board Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the Dodge County Extension Board was brought to order by Dean Castillo, Extension Educator at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 12, 2023, at Nebraska Extension Office located at 1206 West 23rd Street, Fremont, NE.

Board Members Present: Joel Kerkman, Rossana Jaeger, Kathy Kneifl, Kelly Abrahams, and Bonnie Nebuda. Quorum present. Pat Tawney representing the Dodge County Board of Supervisors was in attendance. Staff members Dean Castillo, Shane Ahrens, Lisa Poppe, Ian Peterson, and Mary Spath were also in attendance.

Kathy Kneifl, Chair opened the meeting and roll call was taken. At 4:10 a quorum of five Extension Board members were present.

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

Dean Castillo asked that an update of the Water & Crops Extension Educator position be added as an additional item to be placed on the agenda. This additional item was added, and the agenda was approved.

Kathy Kneifl welcomed Ian Peterson, Extension Educator. Ian started June 1, 2023, as the new Horticulture, Landscape and Environmental Systems Extension Educator. Ian will be covering ten counties which include Dodge, Washington, Saunders, Cuming, Burt, Wayne, Dixon, Dakota, and Thurston.

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

Lisa Poppe presented the financial reports for review and answered questions. Rossana Jaeger moved to accept the financial reports as presented. Joel Kerkman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Lisa Poppe gave a report on the different tours and opportunities that happened at the NACEB Summer meeting that was held on June 10, 2023, in Omaha. This was a statewide event for Extension Board members to connect and learn more about Extension and the impact it is having on the people in Nebraska.

New Business

Dean Castillo gave an update on the status of the hiring of the Water & Integrated Cropping Systems position. Dean announced that there are 2 candidates that have applied and that they will each have a ZOOM interview soon. There are three WICS positions currently open, Dodge, Burt, and Colfax County at the present time.

Updates from Council / Boards / Staff

Shane Ahrens reported on the 4-H Program in Dodge County. This week is deadline week for enrollments and animal identification sheets and YQCA training. Shane reported that the enrollment numbers, at this time, are up from last year. In April, the Public Speaking contest was held with 37 youth attending, out of these 16 qualified for the State competition. Family Livestock judging was held on June 8 with thirty-six participants. Workshops are being held throughout the month of June. This year the workshops offered were Babysitting, Healthy Living, Clover Kids, Home Environment, Entomology and Aerial Agriculture.

Dean Castillo provided a handout and reported to the group about the Agriculture Literacy Festival that was held in April. The festival reached 939 third grade youth from Douglas, Dodge, Washington, and Burt counties. Dean also talked about the midyear program review and how the 4-H program has reached approximately 32% of the total number of school aged youth in Dodge County with continued growth expected. Dean also explained about the Build A Hut program for 5th – 6th grade youth that is being held during the months of June and July.

Lisa Poppe provided a handout to highlight programming that she is involved in. Discover & Design is a newly developed webpage that provides age appropriate, engaging activities for young children. These are free resources for centers, teachers, or parents to utilize. Lisa also talked about the Social Media campaigns that the Fit & Healthy Kids Team promotes to help childcare providers and families.

Dodge County Board of Supervisors Update - Pat Tawney updated the group on the projects for Flood Control: North Bend Cutoff Road, Rawhide Creek, East Elkhorn District Drainage Ditch. He also commented that Tax forms had been sent out. Protests against the new valuations would take place for those that did not agree on their new valuation. Pat reported to the group that the new Highway 30 roadway which connects Schuyler and Fremont will be opening for traffic this week.

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

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

August 14, 2023, 4:00 p.m. – Extension Board Meeting
to be held at Dodge County Extension Office 1206 W 23rd St Fremont NE