

Dodge County Extension Board and Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the Dodge County Extension Board was brought to order by Mary Lou Pycha, Extension Board Vice-Chair at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2024, at Nebraska Extension Office located at 1206 West 23rd Street, Fremont, NE.

Current Board Members Present: Mary Lou Pycha, Jill Gossett, Bonnie Nebuda and Chris Raasch. A quorum was not present. Staff members Lisa Poppe, Ian Peterson, Beth Nacke and Mary Spath 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.

The minutes from the January 24, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Lisa Poppe presented the General Tax and Extension Program revolving account financial reports with no questions. Minutes and financial reports will be approved at the next meeting that a quorum is present.

New Business – Angie Heller reported that Alania Kauffman has accepted the 4-H Extension Educator position. Alaina will begin her employment on March 19, 2024.

Updates from Council / Boards / Staff

Ian Peterson gave us a handout detailing his work in January and February. He then taught us about vertical gardening strategies with a presentation that he will be using to teach different horticulture groups.

Beth updated us with her program impacts with information on the Healthy Habits – Catch Kids program at Fremont Public Schools, Monthly Meal Kits, Local Indigenous Foods Training, Growing Together Nebraska and the Little Free Pantries.

Lisa Poppe gave the group an update on her team's programs highlighting One Hour, Once a Month, 24/7 On-Demand Webinars, Virtual Conference, The Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence and the Pyramid Year 3 trainings.

Maisson Freire de Oliveira gave an update on his programs and outreach. He talked about the Eastern Nebraska Corn and Soybean Expo, Eastern Nebraska Soil Health Conference, and Pesticide trainings.

Angie Heller updated the group on the search for the Associate Dean for Agriculture and Natural Resources. She reported that there are 3 candidates that will continue through the interview process. She informed us that the College of Fine Arts are looking to help with projects. She asked if we knew of a need that she would connect us with the right person. Angie also talked about how UNMC has projects which focus on the wellbeing and mental health of those in the Agricultural fields of employment.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting May 13, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.