MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The Saline County Extension Board met on Wednesday May 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Present were Michelle Renner, Kellen Novak, Sandy Krivohlavek, Aaron Niederklein, Gary Baxa, Kay Kottas, Theresa Vernon (Ag Society Representative) and Phil Hardenburger (County Commissioner Representative). Staff present were Nathan Mueller, Ingrid Lindal, Maddie Werner, Melanie Kunc, Becky Vales, and Nicole Stoner.

Sandy called meeting to order at 5:04 pm. Roll call was taken. A motion was made by Michele Renner to accept the agenda and past meeting minutes. Gary Baxa seconded the motion. Motion carried and unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Melanie Kunc presented the financials with total expenditures equaling $11,227.68 for the month of April. Kay Kottas moved to accept the treasurer’s report as presented, Aaron Niederklein seconded. Motion passed.

Water and Integrated Cropping Systems – Nathan Mueller presented handouts regarding programming in his accountability region and beyond. Nathan highlighted he has completed 44 of 40 required hours for his Certified Crop Advisor status. Nathan has continued to report weekly crop progress and drought conditions for the area to the US Drought Monitor as it directly impacts USDA programs. At this time, Nathan is serving as interim WICS educator for Johnson, Pawnee, Nemaha, and Richardson counties. Recently, two other interim roles have ended with the hiring of two new staff members.

Early Childhood – Ingrid Lindal provided a handout regarding programming.

Horticulture – Nicole Stoner presented an informative segment regarding subject related to her programming (horticulture, trees, yards, etc.). She presented trivia questions to the group and took time to answer questions that the Board had.

Youth Diversion and Clover Kids – Anita Stougard provided a report regarding Clover Kid activities that wrapped up for the school year and the upcoming Clover Day scheduled for later this month. She also reported that she has a growing Diversion workload.

4-H Youth Development – Maddie Werner and Becky Vales reported on current happenings within local 4-H programming including enrollment, completing embryology, and upcoming fair deadlines, etc. It was also mentioned that the office is working with the State 4-H Office to conduct an audit of 4-H Council accounts.

4-H Council – Sandy Krivohlavek reported that there will be a June meeting leading into fair time and highlighted the upcoming audit.

Ag Society – Theresa Vernon reported a general fair update regarding the carnival and other activities for the 2023 Saline County Fair.

Old Business – General discussion occurred regarding the meeting room policy and the consensus was that the Nebraska Czechs of Wilber quilt show (Czech Days Friday-Saturday-Sunday) should consider another location following the 2023 festival. For the past several years, the north meeting room has been utilized accruing charges related to supplies, repairs, and custodial overtime funded by tax dollars.

New Business – The 2023-2024 budget was presented to the Board. Gary Baxa made a motion to accept the budget and Aaron Niederklein made a second motion to approve. The 2023-2024 budget was approved. It will be submitted to the clerk’s office in the upcoming weeks.

Extension Board vacancies still exist. Nathan reported that UNL did not approve the Extension Board Constitution update. Johanna Pesante-Daniel being willing to act as a Board member, is unable to officially join as a voting member, due to living outside of the county lines. It was discussed she can still attend meetings and offer input but is an informal and advisory position only.

On June 15 in Omaha, the NACEB Summer Meeting is scheduled. One person will be attending from each county Extension Board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Renner