

**Larimer County Extension Advisory Committee Minutes
June 24, 2015**

Members present: Sue Ballou, Pam Harrold, Valerie Clark, Ronda Koski, LaVon Blaesi, Harry Love, Susan Bonsal, Irene Romsa, Dixie Dick, Laurel Kubin, Fred McClanahan, Jr., and Karen Crumbaker.

Excused: Commissioner Lew Gaiter

Chairman Dixie Dick called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Introductions were made and minutes of the May 6 meeting were approved.

Agent Report

Karen Crumbaker reported on the Native Plant Master program in Larimer County.

The Larimer County Native Plant Master Program began in 2008 and through 2015 there have been a total of:

- ▶ 31 courses
- ▶ 300 participants
- ▶ 9 instructors
- ▶ Additional classes

The committee members were given samples of a common plant and using the dichotomous key (a/k/a Weber & Wittmann *Colorado Flora*), were taken through a step-by-step tutorial of how it is used to identify plants. This is the same training participants receive when becoming a Native Plant Master. The plant was common bindweed.

Director's Update

The 4-H agent position has been filled. Megan Blaser will start working on July 15. She is a former 4-H agent from Oregon.

Interviews for the Family & Consumer Science agent position will be held July 6 on campus and July 7 at the Extension Office. There are four candidates.

There will be two half-time positions for 4-H STEM volunteers in Larimer County thanks to a new partnership between AmeriCorps and Colorado State University Extension. Toby Swaford will supervise these individuals. The positions are open to anyone 18 years and older with a high school graduation or GED. Applications are due July 15.

Results of the County Survey were discussed.

Director's Update (continued)

Committee members were asked to sign up to help at Extension's booth at the County Fair. New events during the fair will include Cow Pie Bingo, a fundraiser for the catch-it-calf program and a Celebrity Round Robin where elected officials from Larimer County will be invited to show five different species of livestock, just like the 4-H members do.

Current members were asked to help with recruiting new members for the Extension Advisory Committee.

Trends and Issues

- County Fair – everyone is welcome to enter, exhibit and attend.
- Visit the CSU Trial Gardens
- The Larimer County Farmers' Market is Saturday mornings in Old Town Fort Collins from 8am to 12 Noon through October 24.
- Master Gardeners on the Tree Team are making lots of visits to homes and diagnosing tree problems.
- The FLTI (Family Leadership Training Institute) graduation was well attended.
- The 4-H Performing Arts contest was a big success. It was June 13th at The Ranch.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40am

Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 2, 8am, Larimer County Extension Office.

Submitted by Fred McClanahan, Jr.