

Coös County Extension Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 6, 2022

6:00 – 8:00 pm

This meeting took place in-person under the Berlin Pavilion, located on the corner of Hutchins and Columbia Streets. We celebrated our milestone council members and recognized the service of all our council members. Exile Burrito provided a Taco Bar for dinner.

Attendance:

Aidan Howry, Heidi Barker, Chris Whiting, Lori Langlois, Scott Losier, Zeanny Egea, Commissioner Ray Gorman, Wayne Saunders, Ray Bell, Melanie Staley, Scott Stepanian, Carol Jean, Nick Rowley, Rep Eamon Kelley, Edith Tucker, Jessie Paine

Guests:

Xavier Oaks (4H), Patience King (4H), Andrew Saunders (4H), D Griffin (4H), Ellen Law (4H), Lauren Tyler (4H), Lauren Banker

Absent: Debbie Joyce, John Accardi, Ray Bell

- 1) 6:00pm: Dinner
- 2) 6:17: Start of meeting, Welcome & Introductions - Scott Losier, Chair
- 3) April 4th, 2022 Meeting Minutes approved and seconded
- 4) Council Recognition – Heidi Barker, COA (External) & Lauren Banker, Public Affairs Manager
 - a) Lori Langlois – 2 years
 - b) Aidan Howry – 4 years
 - c) Ray Bell – also will receive his 2 years!
- 5) County & State Updates related to Community Extension Needs –Rep. Kelley, Commissioner Gorman, & Edith Tucker
 - a) Eamon Kelley: Low grade timber commission – looking to extension for guidance in relation to the biomass replacement bill – needing to find other uses for low grade timber due to Maine plant fire. Would like a representative from the North Country; first report to be compiled by Dec 1st.
 - b) Rep. Gorman: This spring was involved in conversations regarding the future of The Balsams. Berlin wind farm is up for a new contract. Gave feedback that it has been a very positive experience working with the extension service.

- c) Edith Tucker: Very excited that those involved in 4H can gain tuition credits at this really shows a long range investment in youth. She has seen an increased interest in 4H and the benefits are spread out around the county. Voiced encouragement to be sure to vote in elections this fall, be part of the solutions to our local problems!
- 6) Position Updates:
- a) Field Specialist, Natural Resources — Chris Whiting, 4-H Program Manager
 - i) As of date of meeting, UNH was in negotiations with Sean Ash. Sean has since declined the position. More candidates are being pursued.
 - ii) Coverage of Coos County continues to be managed by Field Specialists Jim Frohn and Wendy Scribner. State Specialists are also available when required.
 - b) Field Specialist, 4-H Healthy Living, Outdoor Education – Kate Guerdat, State 4-H Leader
 - i) First screening was to take place June 13th. As of July 11th, two candidates had been moved along in the process.
 - c) Part-time Administrative Assistant – Nick Rowley, COA (Internal)
 - i) Offered to Julie Callus, to start June 13th.
 - d) Field Specialist, Field and Ag crops
 - i) Nick Rowley will be accepting another extension position in Maine with an opportunity for statewide work and to be closer to family. Coverage will be managed upon his departure for Coos.
- 7) 4-H Program Highlights – Chris Whiting, 4-H Program Manager & The Adventurers 4-H Club
(https://media.unh.edu/media/UNH%20Extension%20Youth%20%26%20Family%20Statewide%20Summary%20-%202021/1_j8hle6yh) (This video reflects Youth & Family programs)
- a) Shared the Coos County 4H Calendar for 2022 – filled with MANY great offerings and events.
 - b) Introductions of The Adventurers 4H Club – they have remained very strong in Coos, were awarded the outstanding club award three times. The kids have gotten to travel, learn, and have had doors opened for new opportunities thanks to 4H.
 - c) Report of Coos 4H Enrollment – over 120 kids enrolled for 2022, which is up from 2021 at 99.
 - d) Lauren Tyler, lifelong 4H-er will be the assistant camp director at Barry Camp this year.
 - e) Group activity led by The Adventurers.
- 8) Council Membership Vacancies – Scott & Heidi
- a) Two open positions – discussed what stakeholders are missing and who might fill the spots to be extension advocates.
 - b) Reviewed spreadsheet based on April 4th dialogue.
 - c) Nominations:
 - i) Tiffany Sweatt– will be contacted by Scott Stepanian (Declined)
 - ii) Mary Kate Paulhamus if Tiffany says no – will be contacted by Jessie Paine
 - iii) Courtney Vashaw- will be contacted by Lori Langlois (Declined)
 - iv) Ross Caron – will be contacted by Eamon Kelley
 - v) **AC members to please email Scott and Heidi with the outcome of your inquiry
 - vi) ***We should continue to suggest names to add as community prospects and check off which areas they could represent
- (1) To do: Add Bonnie Hurley – Colebrook (Via Rep. Gorman) to the prospective list.



- 9) Other Business:
- a) Barry Camp opened the last week of June
 - b) Not involved in the Androscoggin Valley Food Coop directly at this time just because of time with preexisting projects and initiatives. Heidi was originally on planning team and helped to facilitate some of the early vision work. Right now, the group is aware that we would be a resource for connections with the Nutrition Incentives, food access and affordability work.
 - c) Great to have the 4H kids present at the meeting
 - d) A vote for catered food for future meetings!
 - e) Inquiry for education needed for the Ag field specialist position → Experience in Agriculture plus Bachelors degree or a Masters degree are required.
- 10) 8:03 Meeting adjourned.

Box Link – Agenda, Minutes & Meeting Resources:

<https://unh.box.com/s/5mfla71c9k2zdkfmlt3zbhyv04ch37z2>

2022 Meetings (6:00 pm – all Mondays)

- September 12 – Food & Ag Review/Potential Stakeholder Engagement Event
- November 7 – County Budget Review & Natural Resources Review (Change from December)