



Serving Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties

Extension Advisory Council MINUTES
Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy (NREE)
March 27, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Our Mission: To help our communities recognize their sustainability is directly related to the sustainability of their natural resources.

1. **Welcome** – Peggy Doty Anesi, Educator, NREE
2. **Members**–
 - Boone County –Barb Wych – ([Suggested Boone Co. Health Dept. and Boone SWCD](#))
 - DeKalb County – Jodi Gudewicz, Anita Zurbrugg, and Jeff Woodyatt
 - Ogle County – Kayse Rushford - ([Sent Kayse an email on 3/28 with an advisory potential person.](#))
3. **NREC** –
 - Office change
 - New flooring
 - New bathroom stalls
 - New phones
4. **NREC Staff Update** -
 - Hope Nordbrock, Intern for summer 2024
 - Dale Giebel, Animal Care
 - AmeriCorps position is open***
5. **NREE Programming and Updates** -
 - Watershed Stewardship for Leaders (WSL)- finished in February
 - Waiting for EPC to return to see evaluation results.
 - [Barb mentioned Dan Kane, past BCCD Executive Director and reason for creating the WSL program, is getting the George & Barbara Fell award at the Natural Land Institute on April 4th. This is one of the big awards in the natural resource world of Illinois.](#)
 - Land Use Committee – Watershed Wednesdays
 - NatureFest April 20, 2024

- DeKalb School District Kindergarten Spring field studies ([Sending the schedule as requested by Anita.](#))
 - Next recruiting volunteers
 - Work on activities together – meeting with 3 volunteers in Ogle April 1st
- Spring field studies

6. Grants -

- Wheaton Franciscan Year II
 - Train-the-trainer for teachers will be week of June 10, 2024

7. Annual Agreement –

- Solid Waste is back on board with \$20,000.
 1. Webinars - 3
 2. Programs in person -3 (same as webinars)
 3. Mentoring
 4. Recycled Scarecrow event along with the DeKalb Park District fall Pumpkin Smash.

8. Watershed Efforts in DeKalb County – Jeff and Peggy

9. 2024 Programming – Birds Eye View

- Mother’s Day Flower Walks
- NatureFest
- Field Studies

- Teacher training
- Summer Camp (4 weeks)

- Watershed for Leaders in DeKalb 2024 (Ogle fall or spring 2025)
 - [Who do we invite from Ogle -SWCD and maybe someone from Health Department. Potentially someone from the Pine Creek watershed group.](#)
- Master Watershed Stewards (MWS) – Boone and/or DeKalb then Ogle
- Rainscaping – hoping for late summer/fall

10. Suggestions from the Council –

- Additional members
- Program needs conversation – [After the conversations we had tonight, we will look at private well education and water testing as a group project.](#)

11. Discuss 2024 Meeting Dates and Forma

- [March 27th @ 6:30 pm via Zoom](#)
- [June 13 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom](#)
- [September 24 @ 6:00 pm in person entire unit advisory. Location TBD](#)
- [December 10 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom or face to face.](#)

My contact information:

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If you need reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact the meeting coordinator.
Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow time to meet your needs.

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