



Serving Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties

Extension Advisory Council Minutes
Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy (NREE)
March 26, 2025 @ 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 Anesi, Educator, NREE
2. **Members–**
 - Boone County –Barb Wych –
 - DeKalb County – Jodi Gudewicz, *Anita Zurbrugg*, and Jeff Woodyatt
 - Ogle County – (SWCD not likely available)
3. **NREC Staff Update -**
 - **Summer Internship** filled – Sophia Moran, Rockton. U of I Student
 - **DeKalb County Forest Preserve is creating an extra help position to cover the school year for the 2025-26 school year. – Please consider people you know, an active retiree.**
4. **NREE Programming and Updates –**
 - **KinderFest**– April - DeKalb School District.
We will see all their kindergarteners over four days at Russell Woods.
Dates: April 22, 24, 29, and May 1. Rain dates are May 6 and 13.
 - **NatureFest** April 26, 2025 – Volunteers always needed, reach out to Marian Termini @ NREC 815-784-2000.
 - **Mother's Day Flower Walk** – FREE - May 10 at NREC (no need to RSVP)
 - Guided walks on the hour between 10 a.m. and last walk at 1 p.m.
 - **Summer Camp** – June, July, and August
5. **Grants -**
 - Wheaton Franciscan Grant – DeKalb
 - Paddle & Learn, a train-the-trainer for teachers will be week of July 14, 2024
6. **Annual Agreements –**
 - Forest Preserve
 - Soil and Water
 - Solid Waste

7. Watershed Programs Update for 2025

- Watershed Stewards (**Boone last fall, DeKalb 2025**)
- Watershed Stewardship for Leaders – **DeKalb 2025 with Ogle guests -WHO**
- Rainscaping – **Boone/DeKalb combined** – best way to reach people? **Suggestions were to start with volunteers as they would like the opportunity for CE and then through our usual media outlets and social media.**

8. Suggestions from the Council –

- Additional members -Who can reach out to someone? Community water education and youth environmental education are the most relative areas.
Jeff was going to check with someone from Kishwaukee Water Reclamation and NIU to see if our contact there would be interested, or even a grad student.
Barb suggested Boone Co. Health Dept. and Boone SWCD

9. Discuss 2024 meeting dates and times

- July 2 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom **(thoughts due to the holiday later in the week)**
- **September TBD @ 6:00 pm in person entire unit advisory. Location TBD**
- December 3 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom or face to face.

My contact information:

Peggy S. Anesi

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NREC/My Office Phone: 815 784 2000

My cell number: 815-751-6018 (may text or leave a voicemail)

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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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