

Extension Advisory Council - Agenda and Minutes

Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy (NREE)

June 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Mission

To help our communities recognize that our sustainability is directly related to the sustainability of our natural resources.

1. Welcome

Presented by Peggy Doty, Educator, Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy (NREE)

2. Advisory Members

Boone County - Dan Kane, Lisa Mund, Bill Hall

DeKalb County - Jodi Gudewicz (connection issues), Anita Zurbrugg

Ogle County - Kayse Rushford

3. Climate Change Discussion

Dan and Anita shared their perspectives on Extension's role in climate change and their meeting with the new Climate Specialist.

Key points:

- Meeting served as a sounding board with a wide range of thoughts.
- Importance of following scientific evidence.
- Need to engage the public sooner rather than later.
- Concern that Extension has not been sufficiently engaged statewide.
- No feedback received after the meeting.
- Questions about constraints related to addressing climate change locally.

4. Advisory Input

- Native advantage: science behind native vs. cultivated plants and pollinator relationships.
- Peggy will follow up with the new Pollinator Specialist.

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5. NREE Programming Activities Looking Ahead

- Meeting with Judy Hodge (EPC, Boone County) regarding public water programming.

6. NREE Updates and Programming Through June

- G-Force STEM Club: final civic engagement activities; videos to be shared.
- Master Naturalist Training in Ogle County completed.
- Master Watershed Steward Program Pilot updates.

7. Dates for 2022 Quarterly Meetings

- September 27 at 6:00 p.m., location TBD (Whole Unit Council)
- December 14, in person or via Zoom depending on weather.

8. Final Thoughts and Comments

Dan shared:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA updating flood maps for the Kishwaukee River.
- Potential Extension involvement.
- Boone County updating regional stormwater management plan (last updated 2011).
- Importance of understanding the connection between surface water and groundwater.

Contact Information

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