



*Serving Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties*

**Extension Advisory Council Minutes  
Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy (NREE)  
March 15, 2023 @ 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, Educator NREE
2. Members–
  - a. Boone County – Dan Kane, Lisa Mund, and Barb Wych
  - b. DeKalb County – Jodi Gudewicz, Anita Zurbrugg, and Jeff Woodyatt
  - c. Ogle County – Kayse Rushford

(Not Present)
3. NREE Programming and Updates
  - a. Land Use Committee and Watershed project – Peggy and Jeff
    1. Peggy reviewed who and what the DeKalb County Land Use Comm. was about.
    2. Jeff shared they were still waiting to hear whether or not they would be getting the watershed planning grant from the EPA
  - b. Master Watershed Stewards fall program – Dan
    1. Dan talked about the progress on the Watershed Stewardship for Leaders pilot program in Boone. Interest is strong and speakers show a lot of interest and are offering to be the speakers.
  - c. Field studies for students –
    1. Peggy explained how the water curriculum grant will cover the student registration for any school willing to trade a topic in their field study plan for one about water. Peggy is hoping they are finally going to get schools back to NREC. She lost many of her past teachers and new ones have yet to discover the education opportunity. The grant will help draw them in for this year and she is confident they will appreciate an educational field study close to their schools.
    2. Peggy noted that the field studies that sign up from Genoa, Kingston, and Kirkland will also be able to be reported in the EPA grant if they get it because that is the area of the watershed the schools are located.
  - d. Model suggestions for student water education – research possible items
    1. Peggy explained the types of models she was interested in but opened it up to the group for suggestions. None given but they would think about it. Dan shared there are a few water related models at the BCCD Health Department we could borrow if teaching in Boone.

- e. Summer Camp
    - 1. Peggy shared camp topics for the 4 weeks that will soon be advertised.
  - f. Master Naturalist and other volunteer's
    - 1. Peggy still hopes to continue to develop a volunteer base for the NREC. They would assist with multiple needs including education, native garden upkeep, projects of their choice, and most importantly docent efforts when the staff is busy with a group or away from the building.
4. Suggestions from the council members.
- a. Do members want more involvement in programs related to NREE?
    - 1. No one was interested beyond the advisory role but would keep it in mind if they think they know or meet someone who may be interested.
  - b. Do any members want to volunteer for activities in Unit 2?
    - 1. No one was interested at the moment.
5. Ideas for additional advisory members.
- a. Those who would like to stay on the NREE committee of the overall Advisory Council may continue for another term of 2 years.
  - b. Brainstorm people with natural resource related interest.
    - 1. Peggy asked the members to consider suggesting those with a background or interest in natural resources as they consider who we could ask to join the group.
6. Dates for 2023 quarterly meetings. Conflicts with winter SWCD meetings.
- a. March 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm via Zoom (today's meeting)
  - b. June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 pm via Zoom a change of time (*members terms up after this meeting except for Barb and Jeff*)
  - c. September TBD @ in person full advisory (Whole Unit Council)
  - d. December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm via Zoom

**My contact information:**

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If you need a 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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