



Serving Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties

**Extension Advisory Council Agenda
Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy (NREE)
December 13, 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 Anesi, Educator, NREE

2. **Members**–

- a. Boone County – Barb Wych
- b. DeKalb County – Jodi Gudewicz, Anita Zurbrugg, and Jeff Woodyatt
- c. Ogle County – Kayse Rushford

Members absent – Jodi Gudewicz and she let us know she was unable to attend.

3. **NREC Staff Update** -

Charlotte Salis, (AmeriCorps Complete December 31, 2023)

Hope Nordbrock, Attending Olivet in Environmental Studies

Dale Giebel, Animal Care

AmeriCorps position is open – suggestions for where to post.

Anita suggested reaching out to Ben Bingle (DCCF) and Julie Ann O'Connell, NIU NNGO program, both of whom have connections with undergraduate NIU students who may be interested in the AmeriCorps position available through the Natural Resource Education Center during 2024.

4. **NREE Programming and Updates** -

- a. Master Watershed Stewards progress report – Peggy mentioned the statewide train the trainer was complete, and Extension could start implementing the training. She has plans to run one for Boone County as promised and if room in the class after early bird registration, it could potentially be open to anyone in the unit.
Anita suggested this training be part of the overall Master Naturalist training in the future. Anita suggested talking to Derek Hiland, DeKalb County, to get on the Stormwater meeting notices, as anyone can attend.
The group discussed the Watershed for Leaders program and how a current planned meeting for February could be used to acquire a committee of people willing to help offer the 4-part professional development in DeKalb County in 2024.
- b. Land Use Committee (meeting December 14th) -
- c. Augmented Reality sand table update – Anita is interested in learning/teaching using the exhibit. Peggy mentioned her hope was the sand table and other models could be a bus tour stop for the current EPA watershed planning grant in DeKalb County.
- d. WinterFest 2023 on January 20, 2024 – Peggy invited the council and their friends or families to come for the event. She mentioned Marian may still be looking for volunteers for the event if they are so moved.

- e. DeKalb School District Kindergarten Spring trips
 - i. Recruiting volunteers – Peggy is looking for a team of MNs to plan and deliver the four field study days in the spring. Dates are yet to come, and a request will be sent out. There will be 4 days with a potential total of 580 kindergarteners.

5. Grants -

- a. Wheaton Franciscan Year I – complete (Heather and Peggy)
- b. Wheaton Franciscan Year II – awarded
 - i. Train-the-trainer for teachers

6. Annual Agreement –

- a. Explanation of agreements -
- b. Solid Waste interest - Peggy offered a proposal of activities and education at their request and is waiting to see if they will get the county board funding. Peggy explained that there may be the potential of the Wheaton Franciscans coming on as an annual grantor in the future. Anita answered Jeff’s request for an overview of solid waste. Anita believes it is important to reach out to solid waste with private well education interest as they are focusing on PFAS or “forever chemicals” and microplastics. Peggy feels the major needs are how to test, what to test for, where to take the test, and how to read it. She feels this as well as education through marketing about private wells is important. Jeff agreed that it is long overdue, and he asked for private well resources for the DeKalb Watershed website.

7. 2024 Programming – Birds Eye View

- a. Winterfest, Mother’s Day Flower Walks, & NatureFest
- b. Field Studies & Summer Camp
- c. Watershed for Leaders in DeKalb 2024 (Ogle 2024 fall or spring 2025)
- d. Master Watershed Stewards (MWS) – Boone and/or DeKalb then Ogle.
- e. Rainscaping
- f. Teacher training

8. Suggestions from the Council –

- a. **Additional members** – Barb suggested Mark Luken of the Boone County Conservation District. Jeff suggested reaching out to a couple people taking the Watershed for Leaders program now that they have shown interest. Peggy said she would ask at the next session in January.
- b. **Programmatic needs**

- 9. Discuss 2024 Meeting Dates and Format** – The group would like the dates as soon as possible. Anita requested a different day of the week for the September meeting because she has missed all three so far due to a conflict in which she is the chair of another committee. The group is open to meeting in person for the June meeting. Peggy will prepare the 2024 meeting dates and the group will weigh in with any schedule conflicts.

10. Past - 2023 Quarterly Meetings -

- a. March 16th @ 6:30 pm via Zoom
- b. June 21st @ 7:00 pm via Zoom (a change of time)

- c. **September 26th** @ 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Fatty's in Dekalb. In person full advisory (Whole Unit Council) Fatty's Pub & Grille, 1312 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
- d. **December 13th** @ 6:30 pm via Zoom (today's meeting)

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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