

## **Minutes – CEC Meeting @ St. Louis County Depot Boardroom (and via Zoom) – March 21, 2024**

Present: Paul Fish, Nancy Nilsen, Susan Sauls (virtual), Mary Shaw

Others: Keri Cavitt (virtual), Jim Gottschald, Mary Tennis, Heather Snesrud, Chris Strand, Linda Erdahl, Abby DeVita, Troy Salzer, Nicole Baxton

Acting Chair, Paul Fish, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Roll call was taken and pledge of allegiance at 9:00 am. Agenda was not approved. Minutes from November 16, 2023 & January 18, 2024 were not approved. No quorum present.

### **County Commissioner Update: Keith Nelson and Annie Harala**

Not present.

### **Word around the county**

Discussion about Spring Gardening Extravaganza at the Depot, other options for events, and recommendations to reach a wider audience:

- younger demographic and hybrid option
- use of interns or volunteers to handle tech needs during events
- possible discount for older people bringing a younger attendee
- advertise with colleges and continue to advertise to Ag/Science teachers in newsletter
- include information and events on county website
- include Youth in Action members
- podcast opportunity

Discussion about university curriculum for use in schools and ability to qualify for free curriculum. Welcome new connections with partners and providers.

### **Feature Program: SNAP-ED**

SNAP-Ed partners with organizations/agencies, teaches participants how to shop for and prepare healthy foods, and helps communities create and sustain environments that support wellbeing. Work with farmers markets, food shelves, and local grocery stores. SNAP-Ed values incorporate trauma informed programming for a holistic approach.

Discussion about funding distribution – based on demographics.

Direct education through sites (classrooms, community centers, supportive housing, school gardens, parks, virtual) and audiences (youth, teens, adults, older adults, families).

Children's Garden in Residence at Boys & Girls Club Program – collaboration with Extension Master Gardener program and Boys & Girls Club. Each youth gets their own garden plot.

Choose Health: Food, Fun & Fitness curriculum – partially developed by 4-H for afterschool settings.

Walk with Ease curriculum – for older adults where physical activity is the focus. Weekly walking session in an urban area (downtown Duluth) with a focus on nature.

Policy, System and Environment (PSE) – increasing access to healthy foods and physical education. Partners are farmers markets, community garden programs, master gardeners, food shelves, and schools.

One Vegetable, One Community program – collaboration with Duluth Community Garden Program – seed packet distribution, cooking demonstrations, planting in gardens.

SuperShelf program – food shelf set up as a shop/store to promote dignity and help with food safety.

Discussion about interactions with AICHO – they are partnering with One Vegetable, One Community.

### **Farm Family: Troy Salzer**

Discussion about farm family nominations. Would like the committee to give final recommendation at the next meeting.

**Extension Director Update: Mary Tennis**

Update on Extension Supervisor position created. The position has been reviewed by HR, would like to fill the position in May, and looking for volunteers to be on the hiring committee.

This position is a county employee, full-time position, and open to all candidates.

Request for an organizational chart for the committee.

**Regional Director Update: Keri Cavitt**

Update on ANR educator position – an offer was made, waiting on paperwork, with a tentative start of April 8<sup>th</sup>. Initially housed in Duluth office, then will travel throughout the county.

Discussion about new staff at Cloquet Regional Office.

Discussion about the Joint Powers Board, ATV trail study, and research on future trail development and investments.

**Business Items:****Election of officers**

No election of officers

**YTD budget actuals**

Included for review

**Announcements/other**

Request for a list at each meeting of upcoming events.

Spring Gardening Spectacular – Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

Soils and Forage workshop in Iron

Youth in Action members volunteering at STEAM Festival at the Depot on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

Meeting adjourned 10:46 am.

Next meeting: April 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 – 11 am, Camp Esquagama

Respectfully submitted by,

Nicole Baxton