

Polk Extension Service District Notes

April 13, 2022

In attendance: Commissioner Craig Pope (Chair), Commissioner Jeremy Gordon, Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst, Richard Riggs, Alisha Atha, Yuridia Reyes, Jose Garcia, Susan Busler

1. Commissioner Pope called meeting to order at 10:01 am
2. Comments for items not on agenda

Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Pope recognize Jim Clawson as long-time Extension supporter, Polk County community supporter and PECAN member. His contributions to the community will be remembered and he will be missed.

3. Approval of Agenda. Commissioner Mordhorst moved, Commissioner Gordon second. Passed unanimously.
4. Approval of Consent Calendar. Commissioner Gordon moved, Commissioner Mordhorst second. Passed unanimously.

Consent Calendar

- a. Extension Service District Notes – March 17, 2021
 - b. FY 2022-2023 District Budget Calendar
5. New Business

District Budget Committee

Appointment of District Budget Committee member, Lena Calef. Commissioner Gordon moved to appoint Lena Calef to District Budget Committee, Commissioner Mordhorst second. Passed unanimously.

Administrative Updates – Richard Riggs

- New Director of Extension, Ivory W. Lyles, working on finishing up visiting all counties. Visited Polk back in October and November 2021 and met with Commissioners, PECAN, faculty and staff. Has not yet had a chance to meet with Commissioner Pope.
- Extension did not receive funding of our full legislative ask. Some positions that we were hoping to fill will remain vacant.
- Extension Administration is in the process of hiring two Executive Directors – Director of Engagement and Director of Operations. These two positions are not at same level as prior Assoc Vice Provost position, held by Lindsey Shirley.
- New director for NWREC has been hired – Surrendra Dara. Has extensive background in research.
- Extension recently hired a new food safety and preservation coordinator – Jared Hibbard-Swanson. Jared comes from Marion Polk Food Share and will have both statewide and regional responsibilities.
- Nicole Anderson – Field crops specialist, who served Polk County, was promoted to statewide position on campus. Marion/Clackamas field crops position is also recently vacant. Nicole's position will remain vacant for now and will ask for legislative money for next go round. Field crops questions from growers will be supported by Nicole in the interim.

Juntos Program Update – Yuridia Reyes & Jose Garcia

- Yuridia serves both Polk and Marion Counties. Jose is the interim Statewide Coordinator, and also serves Yamhill County. He is also the one who initiated the Juntos program initially with Central School District (which has 47% Latino students).
- Juntos focuses on bring college and career access to families, specifically Latino families. Focuses on college enrollment – university, trade, military, community college. The goal is that the student/family have a plan for after graduation.
- Doing high school program at Central – have served Central SD since 2017. Starting another session tomorrow. Activities include:
 - Ongoing family nights. Purpose is to keep students and families engaged all year.
 - College visits
 - Mentoring – whole family. Applications, processes, family English courses; however family needs to be supported to support the student.
 - Always engaging parents in conversation. Many participants are first generation college, low income, English as second language.
 - Student population in Oregon schools 1 of 4 is Latino, but at university it's only 6-7%. Trying to reach closer to parity in college
 - Served about 37 families in past year. Provided virtual opportunities when not able to meet in-person.
 - Trained more than 10 Juntos facilitators in schools.
 - They also serve as liaisons for all Chemeketa students wanting to transfer to OSU.

Susan Busler – 4-H Youth Development

- Suzi works primarily with STEP (Short Term Education Programs) and club-based programming. Emily Lampe, 4-H colleague in Polk County, does outreach education in-school and with partners.
- Suzi created and leads visionary advisory council made up of leaders. Helps to create program goals and increase 4-H visibility in county.
- 4-H stats – Club enrollment 329, STEP 328, School enrichment 110, day camps 118, after school 8, total youth 893. 52 youth and 115 adult volunteers.
- Polk 4-H association provides various scholarships to members for college or to be used to expand their project area.
- Polk has two state 4-H ambassadors, one state senior leadership award winner, and one state community service award winner.
- New Directions
 - Continue to enhance teen leadership at fair.
 - Increase social media presence and use of technology to support programming
 - Expanding STEP program. Increase STEM/STEAM programming.
 - Recruit additional volunteers to meet member needs.

6. Public Comment, Discussion, Announcements – None

Adjourned at 11:10am.