



## Pima County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board

Wednesday, March 9, 2021, 3 pm

Meeting was hybrid, attended in-person and via Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

#### Attendees

##### Advisory Board

Rick Frey

Héctor Campoy (via Zoom)

Celia Burkel (via Zoom)

Alana Mozar (via Zoom)

Micaela McGibbon

Amanda Ruboyianes

##### Absent

Dan Pacheco

##### PCCE Staff

Claire Zucker, Director

Connie Callahan (via Zoom)

Parker Filer, Agent (via Zoom)

Jenn Parlin, Agent (via Zoom)

##### Public Attendees

None

#### Item 1. Call to Order and Welcome

Rick Frey called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

#### Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Rick Frey led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

#### Item 3. Introductions and Welcome

The Advisory Board welcomed new member, Amanda Ruboyianes. She provided a brief introduction and shared that she also serves on the Tucson Village Farm Advisory Board. Introductions were made by those in-person and attending via Zoom. Claire Zucker informed the board that Dan Pacheco had resigned earlier that week.

#### Item 4. Approval of December 13, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Héctor Campoy moved for approval of the December 13, 2021 PCCE Advisory Board minutes. Amanda Ruboyianes seconded the motion, and all voted to approve the minutes.

#### Item 5. Call to the Public

No members of the public were in attendance

#### Item 6. Pandemic Impacts on Local Food Systems

Claire Zucker introduced the speaker and provided background from previous meetings. University of Arizona CLIMAS Research Scientist Gigi Owen provided an overview of her work studying the impact of COVID on local food systems. She began by introducing the UArizona Center for Regional Food Systems, which produced the State of the Tucson Food Systems Report based on a qualitative assessment, surveys and interviews, listing sessions, and a policy and literature analysis. She described the crucial role that local food systems play during times of crisis and went on to describe the upstream and downstream impacts of restaurant and cafeteria closures during the pandemic. One impact was the increased reliance on farmer's markets including by SNAP and Double Up Bucks users. More data is needed to understand the impact of local food production on the economy and how a robust local food system can increase food security. Discussion followed the presentation.

PCCE Agent Jenn Parlin described her work interfacing with local farmers and distribution centers during the pandemic. PCCE Agent Parker Filer shared about his work with Community Gardens of Tucson and the interest in that community to grow vegetables to supplement other food sources.

#### Item 7. Director's Report

Ms. Zucker presented highlights from all PCCE programs. She provided an update on the Round-Up, which was distributed to 7,219 people with an open rate of 42% in January. In addition, she informed the board that the PCCE Annual Report was nearing completion and would go to print at the end of the month. Ms. Zucker informed the group that she decided to postpone the Celebrate Pima Extension event that had tentatively been planned for mid-April. Ms. Zucker continued with a staffing and financial update and described progress on Pima County funding. This funding will cover the following work elements: 1) PCCE Groundskeeping and Office Operations; 2) 4-H High Ropes Challenge Course; 3) Ranch and Farm Stewardship Curriculum Development & Outreach; and 4) Natural Resources Education and Outreach.

Item 8. Meeting Discussion and Future Agenda Items

Several ideas were discussed, and board members expressed interest in getting program reports from PCCE faculty. At the next meeting, we will focus on 4-H including Pima County Fair outcomes and new work under the county contract for Ranch and farm stewardship.

Item 9. Adjournment

Mr. Frey adjourned the meeting.