



Pima County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board

Monday, December 13, 2021, 3 pm

Meeting was hybrid, attended in-person and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Board Members
Rick Frey
Héctor Campoy
Celia Burkel (pending)
Alana Mozar (pending)

Public Attendees

None

PCCE Staff

Claire Zucker, Director
Parker Filer, Agent
Blase Evancho, Area Agent

Absent

Micaela McGibbon
Dan Pacheco

Item 1. Call to Order and Welcome

Claire Zucker called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Item 2. Introduction and Welcome to New Members

Each person introduced themselves and described their connection to the community and to PCCE. Ms. Zucker asked if there were any objection to allowing pending members to vote in order to reach quorum. Appointment documents provided to the Pima County Board of Supervisors would indicate that board service should be retroactive to December 1. With no objections, the meeting proceeded.

Item 3. Election of a Chair

Rick Frey was nominated for the position of Chair. Celia Burkel motioned to approve. Héctor Campoy seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Mr. Frey took over chairing responsibilities for the remainder of the meeting.

Item 4. Approval of September 30, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Campoy motioned to approve the minutes and Alana Mozar seconded the motion. All voted to approve.

Item 5. Call to the Public

No public in attendance

Item 6. Director's Report

Claire Zucker presented highlights from all PCCE programs. She then reviewed outreach numbers for the first quarter of the year, which extended from July 1, 2021-September 30, 2021. The total hours and numbers of people served were somewhat reduced from 2020. She also described the distribution of the Round-Up and noted that the open rate for the November-December issue was at 33 percent. After presenting the organizational chart, Ms. Zucker discussed recent hiring, which has greatly bolstered all the programs. She also presented a summary of financial resources for extension state-wide and in comparison, with the funding allocations available for Pima County Cooperative Extension. She outlined the FY23 budget request from PCCE to Pima County which includes the following elements: Element 1. PCCE Groundskeeping and Office Operations; Element 2. 4-H High Ropes Challenge Course; Element 3. Ranch and Farm Stewardship Curriculum Development & Outreach; and Element 4. Natural Resources Education and Outreach. Discussion followed regarding the status of the request to move PCCE funding from the Outside Agency contract process.

Item 7. Discussion Topic: Agriculture in Pima County

Assistant in Extension Blase Evancho provided an overview of his work testing cotton variants and his other work in field crops. He summarized how commercial agriculture is being conducted in Pima and Pinal Counties and then explained data shown on the Pima County 2017 Census of Agriculture bulletin. This U.S. Department of Agriculture document provides information on the number of farms, acreage, and agriculture-related income. Of the more than 2.6 million acres of farmland in Pima County, 98% is pastureland. Blasé shared that besides cotton, most acreage is producing grain, primarily desert durum wheat, and forage. Most corn produced is used for silage for cattle. A board member asked if there is information about how much food is locally produced and distributed. Horticultural agent Parker Filer said that he would have to research this to find out an exact number, but that there are many community gardens located throughout Pima County that mainly grow food crops for local consumption. Additional discussion focused on the importance of field crops and livestock to the local economy and how to better inform the public about the importance of agriculture in Pima County.

Item 8. Celebrate Pima Extension

Ms. Zucker described the April 7, 2022 event, Celebrate Pima Extension, which is planned to include thank you's to retired PCCE Advisory Committee members, recognition of donors and collaborating organizations, and highlights from the previous year. Save the date invitations will be sent out in February.

Item 9. Meeting Discussion and Future Agenda Items

Several ideas were discussed including looking at topics that bring agriculture and food and nutrition together. The group would also like to get a talk about water resources for agriculture in Pima County.

Item 10. Adjournment

Ms. Burkel motioned to adjourn, and Ms. Mozar seconded the motion. All voted agreement. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.