

## Minutes – CEC Meeting – Via Zoom and Cotton Town Hall January 18, 2024

Present: Jim Takala, Mark Baumann, Rick Pierce, Gary Rantala, Mary Shaw (virtual)

Others: Mary Tennis, Keri Cavitt, Cacia Wauters, Sarah Westerberg (virtual), Heather Snesrud (virtual), Jan Derdowski, Hailey Eidenschink, Nicole Kudrle, Kristy McManus, Kate Preiner, Katie Ecklund (virtual)

Chair Jim Takala called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. Agenda was approved. November 16, 2023, meeting minutes will be addressed at our March 21, 2024, meeting.

**County Commissioner Update:** No Commissioner's present.

**Word Around the County: All** – No update today.

### Feature Program

4-H Youth Development: Jan Derdowski, Hailey Eidenschink, Nicole Kudrle, Kristy McManus, Kate Preiner, Katie Ecklund (virtual)

- 467 youth enrolled in St Louis County at the end of 2023
- 4-H educators delivered nearly 2000 events in 2023
- 52 percent increase in 4-H Incredible Exchange summer of 2023.

Chair Jim Takala asked what our barriers to growth and implementation for the program are – Balance of how much can we take on and staffing. We will utilize volunteers.

### Project Highlights

- Youth Learn by Doing
  - Project Fun Day
  - Diversion Program
  - YWCA Young Moms
  - Showcase at the South St. Louis County Fair, St. Louis County Fair, State Fair, and beyond.
- Youth are Leaders in 4-H
- 4-H True Leaders in Equity
- 4-H Incredible Exchange
- Holiday Basket Drive

5-minute break

### Extension Director Update: Mary Tennis

- Spring Gardening Extravaganza (the Depot) and Spectacular (Mt. Iron Community Center) coming up in March.
- Youth in Action – Partners Advisory Committee reconvened.

### Regional Director Update: Keri Cavitt

- ANR Position – share on social media to reach more people to apply.
- RSDP – Idea briefs are now open to be submitted.
- Farm Scale Deep Winter Green House Project
- Ag/Natural Resources small research project on biochar and road salt replacement.

### Business Items

- See attached finalized 2024 budget for review.

- Invite Commissioners to events to get them more involved and continue to support our programs.
  - 8 percent increase to the budget in 2024.
- Election of officers
  - No quorum – tabled
- Farm Family of the Year
  - Eligibility criteria and nomination for next meeting.
- Announcements/other
  - Upcoming meetings – Extension programs regional or state level that you want to see showcased at a meeting reach out to Keri.

**Next meeting** - Thursday, March 21, 9:00-11:00 a.m. – St. Louis County Depot

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Cacia Wauters