



Serving Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties

**Extension Advisory Council Minutes
Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy (NREE)
December 14, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Our Mission: To help our communities recognize their sustainability is directly related to the sustainability of their natural resources.

1. Welcome – Peggy Doty, Educator NREE
Present – Dan Kane, Barb Wych, and Jodi Gudewicz

2. Introductions –
 - a. Boone County – Dan Kane, Lisa Mund, and Barb Wych
 - b. DeKalb County – Jodi Gudewicz and Anita Zurbrugg (Jeff Woodyatt, DeKalb Soil & Water District, has agreed to join)
 - c. Ogle County – Kayse Rushford

We reviewed two-year terms. Everyone, except Barb, ends August 31, 2023.
Barb and Jeff (starting mid-term) will complete the current two-year term on August 31, 2024.

3. Ideas for additional advisory members.
Advisory will consider others in the communities and contact me if they have suggestions. Kayse said she would help brainstorm on people from Ogle

4. NREE updates and programming through December 2022.
Peggy reviewed fall field studies and last quarter activity.

5. NREE programming activities looking ahead at 2023
 - Peggy shared the list of NREE related activities and the Extension Program Coordinators who were assigned to assist with those.
 - In relation to the Master Naturalist diversity project, Dan suggested we coordinate with the Region 1 planning council – currently updating their pedestrian and bike paths.
 - He mentioned a working group, including himself, utilizing GPS to lay out the sites and their trails.
 - Dan also shared pertinent information regarding the state and federal law require the natural sites to be ADA accessible.
 - Everything doesn't have to be totally compliant, i.e. every trail.
 - Not every path has to meet ADA compliance. Paved or ag lime trails are compliant. There are 60 miles of trails in BCCD and we could partner in the communication of these public spaces.

- QR codes for birders or other nature interests – a where to start guide would be helpful and likely utilized.

6. Additional programming needs for our unit

- Energy break through may be require a switch in sustainable energy,
- Dan suggested the American Farmland Trust – article here
 - <https://farmland.org/for-solar-energy-to-succeed-it-needs-to-co-exist-with-agriculture/>
- The article is on how the success of solar energy depends on its ability to coexist with agriculture. Peggy will share with SWCD of DeKalb County where the discussions took place earlier in the day. Also, with the DeKalb County Land Use Committee. Many thanks to Dan for being interested in our growth as a group and to share great resources to keep us more aware.
- For more articles on this topic he suggested also to explore the Anthropocene Magazine’s list of articles on this as well as the Union of Concerned Scientists

7. EEO Presentation

- Peggy shared the EEO presentation Teresa did for our required staff meeting. It includes language for councils, so it was considered important for them to know the same information.

8. Dates for 2023 quarterly meetings. If we stay with 3rd Wednesday

- a. March 16th@ 6:30 pm via Zoom
- b. June 21st @ 6:30 pm via Zoom
- c. September TBD @ in person full advisory (Whole Unit Council)
- d. December 13th @ 6:30 pm via Zoom

9. Final thoughts and comments

- **Happy Holidays!**

My contact information:

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If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact the meeting coordinator. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your needs.

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