

The June 26, 2025 of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Board of Directors was called to order by Bill Joint at 5:04 p.m.

Members Present: Bill Joint, Jason Jordan, Fred Potter, Walter Konopski, Gabe Smalt, Lisa Zawrotny, Kyle Lowery, Charles Susick

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Tess McKinley and Robert Shirley

Zoom: Paul O'Connor and Hilda Lando

Approval of Notetaker: Robert Shirley was appointed notetaker.

Approval of the May 22, 2025 Board Minutes: Fred Potter made a motion to approve the May 22, 2025 minutes. Second by Jason Jordan. There was no further discussion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comment Period: None

Reports:

- **State Extension Specialist, Paul O'Connor:**
 - Good news to report that Federal Smith-Lever Funding was restored in the Federal Proposed Budget. The CCE system relies heavily on Smith-Lever Funds.
 - There was an Executive Leadership Conference in Lake George for Executive Directors and CCE administration earlier this month. Tess McKinley attended the conference and stated it was a great conference. Paul was on the mend from hip replacement and was not able to attend.
- **Financial Report:** Robert Shirley presented the financials for the month ended April 2025.
 - He explained why we were showing a surplus at this time last year but showing a significant deficit this year and that the reason was we received the county appropriation in April in 2024 and in June in 2025.
 - Motion to approve: Gabe Smalt
 - Second: Fred Potter
 - Carried unanimous.
- **Executive Director Report:** Everything she has to update the board on is in her biweekly e-mail updates to the board. She highlighted the following:
 - Our Ag in the Classroom Program hosted 1,000 students from schools in Steuben County at Smith Stock Farms in Howard, NY for a farm tour field trip. It was a

tremendous success from the feedback that we have heard. She is proud of all of our staff and employees and family of the Smith Farm who helped with pulling off such a successful event!

- The House of Representatives voted to eliminate SNAP ED from the budget. The Senate will be voting tomorrow and is expected to fund zero dollars in the budget, which is different from the House's elimination, which would possibly allow for future funding for SNAP ED. This is not looking good for SNAP ED funding in 2026, but she is still holding out hope.

- **Program Area Reports:**

- **Strategic Planning –**

- August 4th will be the strategic planning workshop with CCE staff and board members here in the Steuben County conference rooms. Tess is still working on a volunteer opportunity for all of us to participate in in the afternoon.
 - **Youth Development Committee -** has not met since the last board meeting. Gabe reported that the horse show this past weekend was a tremendous success and that all things are now focused on the upcoming 4-H Showcase.
 - **Ag & NR Program Advisory Committee-** Charles Susick reported that the committee met on June 10 and highlighted the following:
 - Master Gardener training is underway and going well.
 - Laura Mills, CCE-Steuben Summer Intern, started in early May and is helping out the Agriculture program a lot. She is doing a fantastic job.
 - There will be a Tree Fruit Pest Workshop in July at Crooked Line Farm & Orchard on Cold Springs Road in Bath.
 - The Southwest Dairy and Field Crops team will be hosting a pasture walk in Woodhull in August.
 - Susan attended with Chuck a water quality meeting in Addison. He thought it was great having a representative from CCE-Steuben at the table.
 - The next program committee meeting is scheduled for July 8.

Community Health and Well Being –Lisa reported that the committee met on June 3 and highlighted the following:

- Excited for our new communications coordinator, Jen Hill to start.
 - CCE-Steuben board member, Jason Jordan was a special guest.
 - The committee talked about all the financial stresses that Steuben community members are facing.
 - Amy Rusak stated that it appears that the Head Start program funding remains in place, but there is concern for HEAP. She also reported that the Resilience Conference that they hosted was a tremendous success.
 - The next program committee meeting is scheduled for August 5.

Old Business:

- Tess explained that the SNAP ED updates were already discussed earlier in her report and there is nothing else to update the board on.

New Business:

- Policy 504 – Tess presented the proposed change to the meal reimbursement policy.

- Motion to approve Policy 504 as presented – Bill Joint
 - Second- Kyle Lowery
 - Carried unanimously.
- Volunteer Handbook – there was a lengthy discussion of this policy, and its impact it would have on certain programs. The board wanted to recognize their support of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program and want to continue the momentum that it has after such a successful state shoot. They did not want to vote on the volunteer policy and wanted to table it to a later date.
 - Motion to table Volunteer Handbook discussion to a later date by Fred Potter
 - Second by Gabe Smalt
 - Carried unanimous.

Next Meeting: going to be at Hendershot Haflingers in Cameron Mills during the 4-H Summer Showcase on July 24 at 4:30 p.m.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 6:34 p.m. made by Fred Potter and seconded by Charles Sussick and the motion was carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Robert W. Shirley, III.