

Agriculture & Extension Committee Minutes
Thursday, September 15th, 2022 5:00pm
Health & Human Services Center & Zoom
303 W. Chapel Street

Dan Nankee called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Roll call: Dan, Ricky, and Roger attended the meeting in person. Kevin and Darrell were excused from the meeting. Lynn, Barry (via Zoom), Kathy, Amanda, Sarah, and Tom were at the meeting.

Motion to approve agenda by Ricky, seconded by Roger. Motion passed.

Motion to approve minutes of the July 21st, 2022 meeting by Roger, seconded by Ricky. The motion passed.

Report from Committee Members – Ricky shared that the Extension Board of Commissioners was meeting with the chancellor next month. He will report at the next meeting.

Wisconsin Extension Association (WEXA) Application Update – Ricky applied to be a part of this committee. None of the three applicants have heard anything yet. Lynn will keep her ear open for any news.

Dan mentioned that during a Land Conservation Committee Meeting, they spoke of our agents/educators. It is true that the Extension educators do work closely with the Land Conservation office – and more collaboration is to come.

AED Update – Lynn Perkins began with a review of the 2023 contract with the UW Board of Regents, pointing out some changes and updates to the contract. This includes upgraded language to be more current, the fee schedule (which will be filled out and ready for review at the next meeting), a clause that the county will provide office space for regional educators (such as FoodWise; previously, this was a separate agreement, but they incorporated it into this contract for this year), and a clause that the county is responsible for vehicle insurance for Extension employees using a county vehicles (currently, no one in our area uses a county vehicle, so this clause does not apply to Iowa County).

Staffing update – Lafayette County has hired a 4-H Youth Development Educator: Hailee Kammerud (after three rounds of postings). The FoodWise Coordinator position is set to be posted next week.

Pesticide Applicator Training changes for 2023 – Glen Nice (state PAT manager) has revised the PAT book, and the book cost will now be \$40 instead of \$30. Producers will have to order a book online (or with a mail-in form), and the book will be delivered directly to them (instead of them stopping in the Extension office to pick one up). In addition, Glen has staff that he would like to perform the training at designated sites/dates instead of having the county Ag Educators do it. Josh is in discussion with Glen regarding this – Josh feels that it is valuable to the Ag Educators to meet directly with the producers when they come for training. The counties will still be responsible for sending out notices to those producers whose certifications are expiring.

Budget notes – Lynn went over various items in the 2023 budget, which showed an overall decrease in requested funds.

Office space – we are looking to put in a couple of walls and a door in the back area of our office suite to create additional office spaces. This will provide work space for the FoodWise Coordinator when hired as well as leave space for housing potential state Specialist positions, should any come our way, while still leaving the Ag Educator office open for the rotation of our regional Ag Educators. Estimated cost is a couple thousand dollars, which would come out of this year's budget.

Fair updates – Sarah shared that this year Extension had a booth at the fair with information regarding the various programs as well as the upcoming Clean Sweep project. Each educator had their own 1/3 sheet flyer with information about their areas. Extension coordinated booth coverage in the fair house, with volunteers helping to keep the displays looking good, tidy, etc. High school youth leaders helped judges and superintendents, assisted with Cloverbud judging, and organized/hosted the Barnyard Olympics. In all, over 200 hours were spent by Extension/4-H volunteers at the fair. Dan and Ricky commented that Jaime Gould in Finance will be attending the fair board meetings (although they are their own entity, they do get money from the county).

Highlights from Educator Reports

Regional Ag Educators

Amanda – Amanda represented that three Regional Ag Educators at the meeting, and she spoke about her involvement in the national Cattleman U program, a program for beef producers. She has been invited to speak at one of their meetings, one of the first educators to be called to do so. She also has an article that will be printed in the *Wisconsin Agriculturist* in October. Amanda has several BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) and PQA (Pork Quality Assurance) trainings scheduled (producers need to be certified). A regional cow-calf meeting is in the works regarding evaluating cattle handling facilities, changes to over-the-counter drug use in the livestock industry, and more. This will be held at the Yager farm in Mineral Point.

Amanda also briefly touched upon items from the other Ag Educator reports, including a new statewide Dairy E-Newsletter that Jackie will be collaborating on that is scheduled to begin in January and several field days that Josh has recently been involved with.

Health and Well-Being Institute

Kathy – Kathy provided some insight into what her typical day may look like, which may involve up to four hours of driving to various schools and other locations. Her school programs focus mostly on grades 2-4, when children are just starting to be more independent. In her other programs for adults, her focus is not just on being healthy, but also how to make money go farther, which helps to relieve stress in adults/families and allows children to do better in school. Three of the ten schools in the area are scheduled to begin in October – that plus StrongBodies twice a week keeps her schedule full. November and December are typically less busy times for school visits, since students have time off for holidays and have less time for FoodWise visits due to upcoming holiday programs; Kathy intends to focus on other areas during this time, as she anticipates having to travel less.

Kathy also highlighted the Opportunity House program through SWCAP – she's going in once per week and teaching the participants how to prepare grocery lists, how to prepare food, and to use basic kitchen skills (focusing on their favorite comfort foods).

Community Development Institute

Barry – DodgeFest took place on Saturday, August 6th. Five bands participated, and things went smoothly thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers and the support of the city government and local organizations.

There have been several articles from the Wisconsin Farmers Union that highlight the struggles that rural residents face regarding reliable internet service, and what progress Iowa County has made in providing access to these residents. For example, a small community such as Hollandale now has two internet service providers offering broadband to its residents. Also, Barry provided an update on the Green Leaf project: it is progressing and should be completed in about three months.

Next week there will be a Youth Conservation Field Day at the Bloomfield Prairie, where 157 area 6th graders will come out to learn about various conservation topics. Josh and Joe will be there presenting as well.

Barry has been in discussions with Grandview regarding a capital improvement plan to improve/expand some of their facilities (another discussion is scheduled for early October) as well as with Mineral Point personnel regarding upgrades/changes to High Street (improving facilities, sidewalks, etc).

Positive Youth Development

Sarah – Sarah gave an update on the storage of the shooting sports guns, which in the past had been kept in an individual's home. All sixteen BB guns and air rifles will now be stored at the Law Enforcement Center until they are needed again next April. She also mentioned how the 4-H Ambassadors volunteered at the Feeding Friends Community Meal a couple weeks ago (they also provided desserts for the meal). Those who attended said it was a great experience. The county Livestock team finished third in the state and will be traveling to St. Louis.

The dean of Extension has committed a large amount of money to promoting 4-H all over the state. Charlie Burns of the Manitowoc Minute has even been brought on to help promote 4-H.

Sarah spent day to day at Upham Woods camp. They have made significant building improvements, including an elevator in the main building and an updated meeting room with enhanced technology. They are striving to make the camp more wheelchair and handicapped accessible.

Sarah mentioned the passing of two long-time 4-H supporters in recent weeks: Mary Dunn, who was a 50-year member, and Shelly Osterndorff, a 22-year member who was also serving as the president of the 4-H Leaders Association. They will both be greatly missed. The Leaders Association vice president, a high school student, will be leading the upcoming meeting.

National Resources Institute

Joe – Joe was not able to attend the meeting, but his report provided updates regarding the watershed plan for the Sinsinawa River watershed, an application for a WDNR Surface Water Planning grant for soil sampling and stream bank erosion assessment, and a farmer-led field day on August 25th (another one is in the works for November). He also provided information about the upcoming Clean Sweep program.

Human Development and Relationships Institute

Ruth – Ruth was also not able to attend the meeting. Her report focused some programs that she was involved with recently (Work-n-Wheels, StrongBodies, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, and Encouraging Financial Conversations). She also participated in the Back-to-School Bonanza with the Family Resource Center. Coming up, there is a Planning AHEAD program, an Aging Mastery program, and another StrongBodies series beginning in Barneveld in October.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17th at 5:00 pm. Dan will touch base with the Airport Committee chairperson to try and work out scheduling difficulties/conflicts. Ricky made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Roger. Motion passed.