

Agriculture & Extension DRAFT Committee Minutes
Thursday, June 20th, 2024 4:00pm
Health & Human Services Center & Zoom
303 W. Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Lynn Perkins called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Roll call: Dan, Ricky, Brad, Kevin, and Darrell attended the meeting in person. Lynn, Dan, Maggie, and Tom were at the meeting. Jackie and Nicole (summer intern) attended via Zoom.

Election of AEE Committee Chair – Ricky nominated Dan for committee Chair and motioned to close the voting and cast a unanimous ballot, seconded by Darrell. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Election of AEE Committee Vice Chair – Darrell nominated Ricky for committee Vice Chair. Kevin motioned to close the voting and cast a unanimous ballot, seconded by Darrell. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Election of AEE Secretary – Kevin nominated Brad for committee Secretary. Ricky motioned to close the voting and cast a unanimous ballot, seconded by Darrell. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

There was one change to the agenda: Lynn asked to move the introduction of the summer intern, Nicole, up to before Lynn's presentation. Nicole is at 4-H Camp and has limited availability. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Ricky, seconded by Brad. The motion passed.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 21st, 2024, meeting was made by Darrell, seconded by Ricky (Brad abstained). The motion passed.

Report from Committee Members – Ricky mentioned that the Wisconsin Historical Society chose Grandview to feature for Historic Preservation Month, and it was featured on posters, bookmarks, etc. He presented a framed poster that can be displayed in the Extension office and handed out bookmarks.

Lynn and Dan introduced Nicole Totzke, the Extension summer intern, who joined the meeting via Zoom from Upham Woods. We are sharing Nicole with Lafayette County, and she is at the Lafayette/Grant County 4-H Camp. Nicole will be a junior at UW-Platteville this fall and hopes to teach agriculture at the high school level. She's been involved in 4-H since 3rd grade and enjoys seeing the 4-H program from the other side (behind the scenes). She will be at 4-H Camp with Dan next week for the Iowa/Portage/Waupaca County 4-H Camp week.

The Wisconsin Idea in Iowa County Overview – Lynn gave a PowerPoint presentation that introduced Extension, including a brief history, a look at the different institutes that comprise Extension, how Extension works within the county's framework, and an overview of the educators and staff of Extension Iowa County and what they do. Phone lists that include the work numbers of all Extension Iowa County staff were distributed.

County Partnership Guidance Document – Lynn reviewed pages 4-12 of this document, which was written in 2021. Extension is working on revising this document and is seeking input from county Extension committees throughout the state. Dan commented that the document was well-written and easy to understand. Ricky questioned if there is a way for committees to learn about programs that educators from other counties do that may not be implemented in Iowa County. Lynn suggested exploring the Extension website as well as the Extension newsletter that is sent out several times each year.

AED Update – The HDR position was reposted for the fourth time, and this time they had 16 applicants! They have invited eight of them back for initial interviews via Zoom, which will take place next Wednesday. From that pool, they will choose 3-4 applicants for in-person interviews, which will take place the second week of July.

The search for a new FoodWise Educator is ongoing. They had two applicants from the initial posting, and neither one seemed like a good fit. The position was reposted and will run through July 11th.

Highlights from Educator Reports

Agriculture

Jackie – Jackie reported that they had just wrapped up a successful Area Animal Science Days down in Monroe. There were some tense moments, as due to some new regulations that just went into effect, cows that were going to be at the event were required to be tested. Four out of the five dairy farmers who had planned to bring cows declined to have them tested. Fortunately, the fifth one offered to bring some additional cows from his farm and have them all tested so the event could go on. The Iowa County senior team finished in first place and qualified for the state competition.

Jackie and Ashley Yager assisted with the state FFA Dairy Judging Contest. Jackie created a 50-question dairy management test, with questions relating to animal welfare, nutrition, reproduction, and emerging technologies. The average score on the test was 56%, which shows the need to continue education about dairy management practices to youth.

Darrell had questions regarding the implications of testing dairy cattle for bird flu. Jackie shared that any lactating cow must be tested. If it tests positive, all cattle from that farm will not be able to leave the farm for 30 days, potentially affecting their ability to be shown at county fairs. Dan mentioned that information he receives by email (Jackie's email newsletter) is very much appreciated. Jackie mentioned that she is up for a national award for the newsletter and will be traveling to Texas soon to find out if she wins the award.

Health and Well-Being Institute

Maggie – Maggie has been working with housing groups in Livingston and Dodgeville with getting their new raised garden beds up and running, including using grant money to purchase items for the gardens. 4-H Ambassadors helped to set up the gardens and fill them with soil. She has met with residents to help determine what kinds of produce they'd like to grow. The produce grown will be available for all residents, and any excess food will be distributed to other Meridian Housing Group locations.

Maggie has also been holding classes at various sites regarding the Senior Farmer's Market Voucher program. She offers tips and advice on nutrition, how best to use the vouchers, how to talk with vendors and what questions to ask, and more.

Positive Youth Development

Dan – Dan has been working with the Iowa County Fair in organizing and updating their merit doners. He and Jackie have also been working with them regarding Fair Entry and the Fair Book. Dan plans on having a "fish pond" in the exhibit building in order to try and attract more people to the 4-H exhibits/entries.

4-H Camp is next week. This year, Iowa County is camping with 4-H'ers from Portage and Waupaca Counties. There are 32 youth from Iowa County attending camp this year, up from 22 last year. The first of three cooking classes was held last week. The theme for this class was Italian food; there are also sessions for Chinese and Mexican food coming up in July. Fourteen people signed up to attend this class, but only four showed up. Those that did attend had a great time, and the food turned out great.

Exploration Day is this Saturday at the fairgrounds. This is an opportunity for youth to come and participate in various sessions, learning things like making ice cream, arts/crafts projects, or even attend a YQCA session. Ambassador applications are due in July. Dan is hoping that a member of the committee would be willing to sit in on the interviews. Darrell did it last year and said it was a great experience. He encouraged other committee members to give it a try, but said that if no one else was able to, he would be willing to participate again.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 15th at 4:00 pm. Ricky made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brad. Motion passed.