

Minutes from the Ag and Extension committee meeting of November 11, 2020

1. Meeting was called to order by Chair Nankee at 3:02 p.m. Meeting was held in the HHS Community Room
2. Roll call – Supervisor Leix, Bruce Paull, Dan Nankee were present (absent Supervisor Butteris and Supervisor Rolfsmeyer). Extension Staff present included – Paul Ohlrogge, Joe Bonnell, Donna Peterson, Barry Hottmann, Sarah Weier, Ruth Schriefer and Gene Schriefer.
3. Motion by Supervisor Paull to approve agenda and second by Supervisor Leix. Motion carried
4. Approval of the minutes from the July 8, 2020 meeting. Motion by Supervisor Leix and seconded by Supervisor Paull. Motion Carried
5. Reports from the Public and the Committee -

Supervisor Paull shared that the Dairy Promotion committee is working on promotional materials that took covid precautions into practice.

Supervisor Nankee complimented Kevin Butteris in his efforts to have \$5,000 dollars reinstated to the Iowa County Fair.

6. Report for Area Extension Director Paul Ohlrogge. Paul shared information on University Furloughs. Also shared information on the telecommuting agreements that each educator fills out. Paul shared information on the UW Budget situation.
7. Agent Reports:

Gene Schriefer = shared in his report on the collaborative effort with LCD and the web series of Learning and Understanding Your Land. This was a new effort offered to numerous farmers and landowners in many counties. Joe Bonnell, Water Quality Specialist also was involved. Gene continues to develop a relationship with the Savannah Institute. Focus has been on educational efforts with perennial crops. Savannah Institute is looking to establish a presence in SW WI and possibly near Spring Green. Another collaborative effort is with the Driftless Land Conservancy which is focusing efforts on young people hoping to get a start in Agriculture. Gene is also working with the Green Land Blue Waters group that has programs in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Gene has connected with Cindy Becker the SW WI Grasslands Coordinator. Cindy invited Gene to meet with clusters of Landowners and share information on cover crops and grazing programs.

Joe Bonnell – shared information on his work with Farmer led Watershed groups. Assisting these watershed groups to share their information more and connect when doing educational events. Joe assisted in connecting the groups with a Google Group platform. Joe also met with Dr. Becky Larsen and had her present on the benefits and limitations of bio digesters. As mentioned in Genes section Joe assisted with the web program on learning about your land. Joe facilitated the group discussions and kept the group on track. Joe has continued to work with Katie Abbott on a grant that would focus on the Knight Hollow watershed area. This would cover 2,000 acres and would cost share riparian buffers and cover crop plantings. Focus is on the landowners who usually do not participate. Joe is also part of a multi-state effort multi land

grant institute effort to identify Farmer Leaders. Thinking of leaders who are critical in a certain watershed area. Looking to build up skills in these Farmer Leaders.

Donna Peterson – shared information the Growing Together WI grant. Donna shared that there had been 2 gardens in Dodgeville and these gardens provided opportunities for direct education. Vicky Stangel from the Dodgeville Library was a key partner in this effort. Donna continues to connect with Head Start. There is no in person education currently. Lesson are prepared in packets for individual families. These packets are being prepared for Grant, Green, Iowa and Lafayette County Head Start families. Donna has been distributing fact sheets to food pantries on covid safety. Donna also shared information on the Strong Bodies programs. These have been offered August thru October at 2 different parks. Dodgeville and Barneveld have indicated that they would like this to continue in the next year.

Sarah Weier reported on her work with in the 4-H program. The “H” team had an ambassador virtual banquet. 16 youth participated in this effort. The virtual site was at the Fair-house on the Iowa County Fairgrounds. Sarah worked with volunteers on set up and take down. During this unusual year the 4-H Program is highlighting all the things “we can” do. Sarah has facilitated 4-H Club Leader trainings via zoom. She indicated more and more clubs are conducting meeting via zoom. “When you hear that 4-H cannot meet that is not true as 4-H can meet.” Sarah shared that there is a new enrollment online format. She also shared information her 4-H Newsletter that goes to all 4-H families. She has started a piece called the Feeling Thermometer. Getting a gauge on how 4-H families are doing in this different time. At this time 175 have already enrolled. This started on October 15.

Ruth Schriefer shared information on six new videos that have been created and shared on social media sites. Videos covered Financial education and Lifespan Connection to the Aging. Ruth authored information sheets for these videos. An evaluation done with HCE members looked at feedback on the 10-12 information sheets that have been created.

- 76% said info was helpful
- 50% tried something new
- 96% enjoyed brain activity
- 48% shared info with others

Ruth further shared that she has been invited by the School of Human Ecology to work on a guide and worksheets to help make decisions in covid.

Barry Hottmann – has been working on updating the UWEX web page. There is a lot of new information out on the site. Barry is wrapping up the broad band survey and continues to work with many partners in analyzing the data. Some highlights:

In 2017 64% said internet important in 2020 94% Very important

In 2017 the average dollars that a family was swilling to spend was \$40 or less - now folks are looking at \$60 to \$80

There is a significant interest in telecommuting if the internet is available.

Motion to adjourn by Supervisor Leix, second by Supervisor Paull. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:28.

Minutes Prepared by Paul Ohlrogge.

DRAFT