

Minutes from the Ag and Extension committee meeting of February 26, 2021

1. Meeting was called to order by Chair Nankee at 12:01 p.m. Meeting was held in the HHS Community Room and via zoom
2. Roll call – Supervisor Leix on zoom, Dan Nankee, Kevin Butteris, Rcky Rolfsmeyer, Kim Allen on zoom. Extension Staff present included – Paul Ohlrogge, Joe Bonnell, Donna Peterson, Barry Hottmann, Sarah Weier, Ruth Schriefer and Gene Schriefer.
3. Motion by Supervisor Rolfsmeyer to approve agenda and second by Supervisor Butteris. Motion carried
4. Approval of the minutes from the November 11, 2020 meeting. Motion by Supervisor Butteris and seconded by Supervisor Nankee. Motion Carried
5. Reports from the Public and the Committee -

Chair Nankee shared information from various publications.

Supervisor Nankee introduced new Committee member, Kim Alan who is replacing Bruce Paull. Kim joined via zoom and introduced herself to staff and committee.

Chair Nankee asked for a motion for a Vice Chair nomination. Supervisor Rolfsmeyer nominated Kevin Butteris for the Vice Chair, second by Supervisor Leix. Motion carried. Supervisor Butteris is taking on the role vacated by Bruce Paull.

WEXA Board discussion. Supervisor Butteris nominated Chair Nankee and Supervisor Rolfsmeyer to fill the delegate spots with WEXA. WEXA is the under the WCA in a relationship with Extension statewide.

6. Report for Area Extension Director Paul Ohlrogge. Paul shared that he is retiring from Extension on May 27. Also shared information on the telecommuting agreements that each educator fills out. Paul shared information on the UW Budget situation and furloughs.
7. Agent Reports:

Gene Schriefer - shared in his report on various programs that he is working on. Highlighting the following:

- Three part “Understanding your Farm” evening series for landowners within Area 17 – focused on soil health, soil testing and nutrient management and farm economics and leasing land.
- 2 virtual field days hosted with Uplands Farmer Led Watershed group and connected to Conservation Training program, focused on the soil health test kit, topics - Soil Health and Dung Beetles, and Silvo-pasture

- Driftless Beef Conference – 3 evenings in January – Greenhouse Gasses and Beef, Building Farm Resiliency, Consumer Preference, Anti-Microbial Resistance, Market Disruptions and secure beef Supply, Market Outlook.
- Private Applicator Training – DATCP extended licenses until Dec. 31 for all expiring licenses this season. New licenses are on-line only and only valid until end of year. Implications for 2022 is we'll have two years of training and testing in one.
- Beef and Small Ruminant Programs started in Dec and will continue through April, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

Joe Bonnell – shared information on his work highlighting the following:

- Working closely with Gene Schriefer, Katie Abbot (Iowa County Land Conservation) and the Michael Fields Institute on a Targeted Resource Management grant we received from WDNR to address phosphorus and soil erosion in the Knight Hollow and Mill Creek watersheds
- I learned recently that a grant proposal I was part of has been awarded. The grant is a Farmer-to-Farmer grant from US Environmental Protection Agency. Rebecca Power, of UW-Madison and Director of the North Central Region Water Network is the Principle Investigator. The project team includes collaborators from Ohio State University, Purdue University, and the University of Nebraska. The main purpose of the project is to develop leadership capacity among farmers in the Upper Mississippi River basin to persuade their peers to adopt best management practices to reduce nutrient losses from farmlands in the region.
- I've been in contact with WDNR staff about putting together a series of YouTube videos about rivers and streams in our region.
- Clean Sweep grant application.

Donna Peterson – shared information the following:

- Shared information on the Strong Bodies Program and the success that has occurred by doing these over zoom. **StrongBodies** is an 8-week (16 sessions) community based progressive strength-training and health program created by Dr. Miriam Nelson and Dr. Rebecca Seguin. This program
- Donna also shared an impact publication that was put together for the reporting of impact during COVID.

Sarah Weier reported on her work with in the 4-H program. She shared the following:

- Discover 4-H Project Series October -November 2020 - A multi-week, virtual pilot program centered on project-based learning where participants experienced the 4-H learn-by-doing model to build life skills and expand awareness of the 4-H program as a response to COVID-19.
- Officer Training January 25, 2021 - 4-H club officers are important youth leadership roles. Youth in these positions can help shape the environment of their overall 4-H club, while also experiencing powerful leadership development opportunities. The Grant, Green, Iowa and Lafayette County 4-H Educators teamed together to create a virtual, four-county training for 4-H Club Officers.
- Sarah also shared a document outlining the 4-H Project frame work for 2021.

Ruth Schriefer shared information on:

- Aging Mastery Program - Based on a growing population of older adults in southwest Wisconsin and a concern about social isolation during the pandemic, Extension Educators Hannah McMunn (Green/Lafayette Counties) and Ruth Schriefer (Iowa County) were trained to facilitate the Aging Mastery Program (AMP). The training and curriculum were provided by the National Council on Aging with support from the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources and Extension's Life Span and Healthy Eating Active Living Programs.
- The 10-session series was offered over 5 weeks in November 2020 and again in January/February 2021 via Zoom or phone due to the pandemic. Special thanks to the ADRC, SWCAP, the HeART Coalition, HCE, and local churches for promoting the series.

Barry Hottmann – shared the following:

- Broadband survey and progress - The Iowa County Broadband Survey results are in and with the help of Southwest Regional Planning Commission we plan to do some analysis and mapping of the data we received.
- Community Leadership Alliance – virtual programs. Our focus is conversations centered around topics that are relevant and appropriate for the time we are living in right now.
- Hidden Valley work - A review of the current drafts is underway and final reveal will happen in March.

Motion to adjourn by Supervisor Rolfsmeyer, second by Supervisor Butteris. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:04.

Minutes Prepared by Paul Ohlrogge.