

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date of Meeting: April 10, 2017

Meeting called to order by: Glen Borland, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Members Present: Borland, Kannard, Patrick, Zastrow present. Hartz absent.

Agents Present: Jones and Georgson

Others Present: Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist;

Citizens Present: Kitty Messman & Cheryl Mierendorf, 4-H Certified Volunteers

Certification of Open Meetings Law: The agenda has been duly posted and the door is open.

Roll Call (establish a quorum): Quorum present

Approval of Agenda for Possible Rearrangement: None

Approval of March 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

Motion made by Patrick seconded by Kannard, to approve the March 13, 2017 minutes as printed.

Motion unanimously approved.

Communications: None

Public Comment: Chery Mierendorf and Kitty Messmann introduced themselves to the committee and stated that they were here to comment on agenda item number 11, Discussion and Possible Decision on charging 4-H Enrollment Fee. Messmann stated that the \$20 fee is a detriment to individuals joining 4-H, especially older youth and youth that live within the County boarder communities. They choose to join FFA as older members because there is not an associated fee. They also choose to join other counties because all of our neighboring counties do not have a fee. She also noted that the 4-H Leaders Association charges a \$5 fee. The County does offer scholarships for individuals in need. Messmann stated that out of their club's 30 members, five utilized the scholarship. It has been a hardship for our club. Mierendorf also added that she wants

4-H to grow; not be hindered by a required fee. She believes that this especially poses a problem for larger families or lower-income families. She too would like to see the fee taken away. They asked the committee for any questions. The committee asked if the FFA membership had an associated fee. Georgson stated that FFA has been moving away from individual fees. Mierendorf stated that she as a Leader and a member of the Leader's Association would like to know what the \$20 per member fee is being used for within the budget. She also stated that the availability of scholarships needs to be promoted more by UW-Extension. She stated that the most common response she receives from individuals choosing not to join 4-H is because of the fee. We need to promote 4-H within the County to grow – we want to be the largest County program.

Item: Update, Discussion and Input on the nEXT Generation Model

Georgson stated that Extension is beginning to make the Administration changes. Two Associate Deans have been hired; Matt Hanson will serve the Southern portion of the state; Dave Berhard will serve the Northern half of the state and tribal communities. Position descriptions for the Area Directors should be out this week. Their goal is to hire and have the Area Directors in place by July 1. Through recent communications, we have discovered that Bruce will be considered an external candidate. There may be an opportunity for feedback time. Matt Hanson will be here at the June 10 meeting. Discussion and questions. Question was asked as to what degree the County will have a say as to who their agent is. Expect that agents will work across County lines. Example used was Master Gardener Program. This group is really at a good place; one of two highest in the state. Much discussion occurred on how agents are shared; how programs are run, etc. There is a strong interest to bring the FoodWise program into the county. Much discussion occurred on the Area Directors; not have ultimate control. Bottom line is there are a lot of moving pieces and there will be a lot of discussions that still need to occur.

Item: Update of Jefferson County Farm Technology Days

Georgson reported that the committees are in the process of forming. If you know people who would like to volunteer, please have them contact Katelyn in the office. Traffic and Safety is all set to go. Shortly, planting for parking and tent city will begin; needs 2 years to be durable. Creative ideas continue to be collected. Slogan/theme is being determined.

Item: Review of 2017 Departmental Budget

Georgson stated that we are in the parameters that we should be at this time.

Item: Discussion and Possible Decision on Charging 4-H Enrollment Fees

Jones referred committee members to the handout of information that provided an overview of his research on fees being charged for 4-H enrollment fees. Currently, Jefferson County charges \$20 per youth and the Leaders Association charges \$5 per youth. It is rare nationally that a fee be charged for joining 4-H. Wehmeier stated that there are really three questions to answer: do you want to keep having a fee; if not, would it be effective this year; does the change happen in the 2018 budget? Discussion occurred. Wehmeier suggested that the committee wait to make a decision until more fiscal research is available.

Item: Discussion of Monthly Agent Reports –LaVern Georgson, Bruce Jones

Written reports were distributed prior to the meeting. Jones and Georgson provided summaries of their written reports to the committee and took questions on their reports.

Georgson updated the committee of one item that was not included in his written report; the Grassland Dairy notification of dairy farmers that their milk will not be picked up as of May 1. Georgson explained that 2017 was expected to be a recovery year for dairies because they were hit in 2016. Yet, currently it does not look like milk will hit the \$17 dollar range until the last quarter of this year. Basically, Canada rewrote some regulations which are now being enforced. Discussion occurred surrounding milk industry.

Jones stated that he is starting to think about how to do leadership development and as we move into the next year, how to make that training most effective. He is looking at the details on summer camp and how we increase our participation in camp. Youth Government Day coordination is underway; it is scheduled for Friday, April 21. The Jefferson County Youth Connections conference is scheduled for the following week; Thursday, April 27.

Upcoming Agenda Items and Meeting Dates:

Future Agenda items: nEXT Generation; Farm Technology Days; 4-H enrollment fee/budget line

Adjournment:

A motion was made Zastrow, seconded by Patrick, to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 a.m. Motion passes.