

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: June 13, 2022

Call to Order: Chair Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call: Committee members Matt Foelker, Anthony Gulig, Dan Herbst and John Kannard were present in person.

Chrissy Wen, Jerry Wilcenski, Jordan Schuler, Alison Pfau, Lisa Krolow, Maddie Foerster and Kim Buchholz were present in-person. County Administrator Ben Wehmeier, Steve Chmielewski and Katelyn Broedlow were present via Zoom.

Quorum present.

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law: In compliance.

Election of Officers: Agenda item should not have been on the agenda. Elections occurred at the previous meeting.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Herbst, seconded by Foelker to approve the agenda as printed. Agenda approved.

Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from May 9, 2022: Motion by Foelker, seconded by Herbst, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Communications: None

Review of Department Budget: A copy of the budget was provided with the agenda packet. Wen asked if there were any questions regarding the budget. No questions.

Introduction of Alison Pfau, Regional Dairy Educator: Alison provided the committee with a brief introduction of herself. She is from Columbia and has been working in Dairy in the United States since 2016. She just recently received her masters degree from the University of Tennessee. Alison was welcomed to the team by the committee.

Discussion and Possible Decision on Horticulture Educator: Wen provided the committee with a verbal background description of the Master Gardener program and the changes that have been happening. Master Gardener Volunteers now work under umbrella of the organization that they volunteer for. A letter was mailed out to Jefferson County's local partners in March. The duties for the Master Gardeners used to fall under the Agriculture Educator. With the regionalization of positions within the Institute of Agricultural, the duties for the master gardeners are no longer under agriculture but rather horticulture. Jefferson County does not currently have a Horticulture educator to support the very active and strong local Master Gardener Association and volunteers. An option for Jefferson County would be to purchase 0.1 FTE of the Horticulture Educator currently serving Rock and Walworth Counties. Wen has had discussions with her and she is willing to add Jefferson County if approved. The cost to Jefferson County would be about \$9,000 annually. If the committee would want to do this, the contract would need to be amended. Discussion occurred. Gulig stated that he felt this was a really good opportunity that carried a low cost to the County. Questions were asked of Mr. Wehmeier if this change could be made for 2022 or if it would need to be made for 2023 budget year. Wehmeier stated that due to the cost savings in vacancies early in the year, the current budget for 2022 should be able to handle the cost.

Motion by Gulig, seconded by Morris, to approve horticulture educator with a start date of July 1, 2022. Motion passed.

It was noted that the contract will need to be changed. If this can be accomplished by July 1 that will be the start date. The committee will need to approve the contract amendment at the July meeting.

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:

- Steve Chmielewski, Community Educator, provided an oral report from his written report that was distributed with the agenda packet. He continues to work with the Jefferson County Parks Department in the establishment of a friend group. This group had their 6th session on June 7 where they made revisions to proposed bylaws and worked on identifying individuals for director positions on the board. His work with the Rock River Coalition is ready for the next step of taking the draft strategic plan to board for approval.
- Lisa Krolow, FoodWise Coordinator, provided an oral report from her written report that was distributed with the agenda packet. Educator Foerster wrapped up a educational series at the end of May with Head Start in Jefferson County. This week they are kicking off a five-week series with the Watertown Family Connections at the Watertown Public Library. This summer they will be working with local Farmer Markets to educate WIC recipients on the availability and use of market vouchers.
- Jerry Wilcenski, 4-H Educator, provided an oral report. Wilcenski reported that he is currently seeking youth input on the 4-H program through an online survey. One theme is the need to consolidate meetings for 4-H; would like to have maybe a meeting day where multiple projects would meet. He is working with Juntos, a statewide program, to start up an after school program 4-H Club for high school Latinx individuals. Some other programs that are being worked on are Foster Farms, Cloverbud Day Camp and Spark Labs.
- Jordan Schuler, Regional Crops Educator, provided an oral report. Schuler mailed her first newsletter to local producers last Friday. Future newsletters will be electronic. She continues to network with local individuals and agencies. She has also been attending some field days; this Thursday a Giant Ragweed Field Day will be held from 10 a.m. until Noon at the Rock County Farm. She is looking at programming for the upcoming Jefferson County Fair.

Next Scheduled Meetings: July 11, August 8 and September 12

Adjourn – Motion by Gulig, seconded by Herbst, to adjourn meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist