

# Extension Education Committee Minutes

**Date of Meeting:** December 12, 2022

**Call to Order:** Chair Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

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

Dwayne Morris and Mary Roberts were absent.

Area Extension Director Chrissy Wen, Steve Chmielewski, Jordan Schuler, Alison Pfau, Jerry Wilcenski and Kim Buchholz were present in-person.

County Administrator Ben Wehmeier and Katelyn Broedlow were present via Zoom.

Steve Nass, County Board Chair, joined the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

**Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law:** In compliance.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** Agenda will stand as presented with the possibility of rearrangement if needed.

**Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from November 14, 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 to date 2022 budget was emailed to committee members in the agenda packet. Copies were also available at the meeting. Wen stated that the 2022 budget is on target. Questions were asked about computers purchased and purchase care and services.

Agenda Item "Discussion on Jefferson County's Extension Participation in ICC" was moved to after Educator Reports to accommodate County Board Chair Steve Nass's participation in the discussion.

## **Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:**

- Steve Chmielewski, Community Educator, provided an oral report from his written report that was distributed in the agenda packet. Chmielewski continues his work with the City of Lake Mills on their Sandy Beach survey. The survey has closed; 546 responses were randomly selected for analysis. Final report is being prepared for early January.

Steve facilitated a Poverty Simulation with 60 Jefferson County Human Services staff and 19-20 volunteers on November 16 at the Jefferson County Fair Park Activity Center. Discussions to follow using evaluation data with Human Services leadership team. Two additional Poverty Simulations were requested to be held for Fort HeathCare and Human Services.

Steve introduced the Local Government Academy and provided a general overview. He asked if there were municipalities or the County that would be interested in investigating the potential of interest in this program. The ultimate goal of the program is to increase civic participation in local government.

- Lisa Krolow, FoodWise Coordinator, was unable to attend the meeting. Wen provided an update for the FoodWise Program. Both FoodWise educators have resigned. They are working on getting the positions posted.
- Alison Pfau, Regional Dairy Educator, provided an oral report from her written report that was distributed in the agenda packet. Pfau continues to make farm visits to meet farmers and network with local ag businesses. During December, she, along with Jordan Schuler, will be hosting meetings in Rock, Walworth and Jefferson Counties. Jim Versweyveld, Farm Management Educator, will present on "Finding the Right People" and attendees will be given the opportunity to ask questions and network. In January, she will be working on developing short English/Spanish videos for educating dairy workers and managers on various dairy farming practices and topics.

- Jordan Schuler, Regional Crops Educator, provided an oral report from her written report that was distributed to members in their agenda packet. Schuler is working with Pfau on the December meetings and video productions mentioned above as well as producing podcasts on various topics through her involvement on the Statewide Emerging Crops Team. She also continues with weekly farm visits to develop relationships with local farmers. She distributed her monthly newsletter, attended the Tri Societies 2022 International annual meeting in Baltimore, MD, and assisted with planning the soil health winter workshop that was held on December 1 in Whitewater.
- Jerry Wilcenski, 4-H Educator, provided an oral report. Wilcenski reviewed the Jefferson County 4-H Demographics with the committee that were distributed in the agenda packet. One statewide goal is to work on retaining older youth. The office is working on project boxes for youth to sign up for and do at their own pace. This was done during the pandemic and has been requested again.
- Julie Hill, Horticulture Outreach Specialist, was unable to attend the meeting. Wen highlighted some of the numbers that Julie is reaching through her programming from her written report. Please feel free to reach out to Julie with any questions on her written report.

**Discussion on Jefferson County's Extension Participation in ICC:** Nass explained that over the years ICC was developed for the 7-8 counties that do not have a regional planning commission. Generally, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the County Boards serve on the ICC committee. At their meetings, they discuss topics of concern or interest and the meetings provide an opportunity for each county to learn and gather information on their various topics. Previously, Extension planned the ICC calendar year by arranging the educational speakers and topics for the committee.

Currently the ICC Committee meets every other month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday. Tammie Jaeger is distributing the agendas, etc.

After the retirement of Steve Grabow, ICC was dropped by Jefferson County Extension. Steve Nass currently serves as the ICC Committee Secretary. Jefferson County is hosting the ICC December meeting.

The ICC provides a great opportunity for education and programming. Discussion occurred.

Steve Nass will attend the December meeting and bring back a list of topics that he will share with Steve Chmielewski. They will work together at identifying potential presenters/speakers for the various topics.

**Next Scheduled Meetings:** January 9, February 13, and March 13, 2023

**Adjourn** – Motion by Foelker, seconded by Herbst, to adjourn meeting at 9:22 a.m.

*Minutes recorded by Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist*