

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: February 13, 2023

Call to Order: Chair Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Roll Call: Committee members Matt Foelker, Dan Herbst, John Kannard and Mary Roberts were present. Dwayne Morris attended virtually.

County Administrator Ben Wehmeier, Area Extension Director Chrissy Wen, Alison Pfau, Jerry Wilcenski, Steve Chmielewski, Lisa Krolow and Kim Buchholz were present in-person.

Katelyn Broedlow was present via Zoom.

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law: In compliance.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Herbst, seconded by Foelker, for agenda will stand as presented.

Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from January 9, 2023: Motion by Foelker, seconded by Herbst, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Communications: None

Review of 2023 Department Budget: A copy of the approved 2023 budget was emailed to committee members in the agenda packet. Copies were also available at the meeting. Wen stated that the 2023 budget is on target as it is early in the year. There were no questions on the budget.

Technical difficulties from 8:35 to 8:45. Needed to restart the Mondopad and Zoom meeting.

Regional Crop Position Update

Wen stated that Jordan Schuler has resigned from the Regional Crop position for Jefferson, Walworth and Rock counties. Friday, February 10 was her last day in the position. Wen stated that going forward she feels that expectations for the positions need to be clear and the same for each county. Wen asked if there were questions on the position. Questions asked:

- Is the regional model the correct model? Wen stated that we need to support the expectations. Also, the regional model is good in that we aren't losing all of agriculture with the resignation as we still have a dairy and horticulture educator.
- Should we reach out to different ag groups within the County for their input? Wen stated she is wanting County feedback first. Wehmeier stated that the County needs to understand what they can ask for based on the plan of work.
- Is anything within the position mandated? How much of their work do they control? Wen stated that the Plan of Work is based on the needs of the community with State inputs, various committees, etc.

Wen will bring the position description to the next Committee meeting for further discussion and approval.

Wehmeier asked how do we manage the expectations?

Chair Kannard asked that the position discussion be kept on the agenda and for the conversation to continue.

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:

Prior to the oral reports, Wen provided the committee with an example of a new report format that the University would like us to utilize. She stated that this was an introduction of the report and asked members to review it and bring back thoughts and comments. Kannard stated that he liked the individual reports and thought this could be supplemental.

- Steve Chmielewski, Community Educator, provided an oral report from his written report that was distributed in the agenda packet.

- Steve attended the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) planning program for Wisconsin counties. He described the program and then asked the committee if this is something he should continue to dig into. Wehmeier shared that it would be about a \$10,000 allocation for Jefferson County. The County has a Broadband Committee and he has forwarded the information he had received to Joan Fitzgerald, the committee chair. Chmielewski will follow up with Fitzgerald for further discussion.
- Chmielewski continues to build efforts to increase public participation through the Local Government Academy. He is working with the City of Fort Atkinson and hopes to have a program kick-off in late Spring.
- Looking at the City of Waterloo for a community needs assessment.
- Continuing to promote Statewide opportunities being offered to local governments in Jefferson and Waukesha Counties.
- Lisa Krolow, FoodWise Coordinator, provided an oral report from the FoodWise Annual Local Impact Report that was included in the agenda packet sent to committee members. In addition, FoodWise currently has two vacancies for which they are hiring. Interviews are set for Friday for one position and the recruitment for the other position has been extended. We are moving into budget process that includes community assessments. Our budget is presented in May. Roberts asked about homelessness. Short discussion occurred.
- Alison Pfau, Regional Dairy Educator, provided an oral report from her written report that was distributed in the agenda packet. Pfau hosted a “Repro Roadshow” in Jefferson for local veterinarians in her five serviced counties. Attendees appreciated the training and asked for future trainings to be held. On Friday, Pfau will be hosting the annual CAFO meeting that is sponsored by Extension and WI DNR. Currently there are about 60 individuals registered. She continues to make farm visits to meet farmers and network with local ag businesses. Video production needs to be reworked with the resignation of the Crops Educator.
- Jordan Schuler, Regional Crops Educator, included her final written report. Schuler resigned from her position. Her last day in the office was Friday, February 10.
- Jerry Wilcenski, 4-H Educator, provided an oral report. Wilcenski reported that our Meats Judging team did great at the competition. One individual was the top place and the Senior Team tied for 1st place. The team is not eligible to compete in Kansas City. There were 2 Senior team and 1 junior team; 14 youth were involved. Educational programming is going well. Changes have been motivating to youth. Different opportunities are happening such as a Holstein grading session and Sunshine Genetics tour. Youth are able to obtain a whole industry perspective on their livestock projects. The Horse project will be moving into a similar fashion. Wilcenski will be coordinating the Hippology and judging clinic. Project Learning Day is this Saturday, February 18. There are around 60 youth participating.

Wehmeier left the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

- Julie Hill, Horticulture Outreach Specialist, was unable to attend the meeting. She provided a written report that was distributed to members in their agenda packet. Kannard asked Buchholz to make sure that the links for the trainings were shared with the Master Gardeners. Questions can be asked by contacting Hill directly.

Next Scheduled Meetings: March 13, April 10 and May 8, 2023

Adjourn – Motion by Foelker, seconded by Herbst, to adjourn meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist