

# Extension Education Committee Minutes

**Date of Meeting:** March 13, 2023

**Call to Order:** Chair Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Committee members John Kannard and Dwayne Morris were present in person. Dan Herbst and Mary Roberts attended virtually. Matt Foelker was excused.

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:** Approved as presented; may rearrange depending on when people arrive.

**Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from February 13, 2023:** Motion by Herbst, seconded by Morris, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

**Communications:** None

**Review of 2023 Department Budget:** A copy of the to date 2023 budget was emailed to committee members in the agenda packet. Copies were also available at the meeting. No questions were asked.

**Regional Crop Position Update and Discussion – Moved to after Educator Reporters.**

**Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:**

- Steve Chmielewski, Community Educator, provided an oral report from his written report.
  - Planning for Local Government Academy in partnership with Fort Atkinson and the community foundation to increase civic participation. They currently have 5 dates planned.
  - Steve is working with County Board Supervisor/Town Council Member Welt Christensen and the Town of Koshkonong on park use planning for 1 or 2 parts.

*Chrissy Wen joined the meeting at 8:45 a.m.*

*Alison Pfau joined the meeting at 8:47 a.m.*

- Chmielewski continues to work with the City of Whitewater on updating their strategic plan. They have a condensed version planned which kicked off last week with a community listening session where 35 individuals attended. Then last Wednesday Department Heads met to kick off their planning sessions.
- Lisa Krolow, FoodWise Coordinator, provided an oral report from her written report.
  - Working with the Bread Basket in Watertown. They are engaging clients through indirect education with playing Nutrition trivia while they wait in line to be served at the pantry. The Bread Basket is providing prizes to encourage participation. The goal is to provide a series of lessons with consumers.
  - Final interviews for the two open positions are scheduled for tomorrow.
  - The annual budget is currently being developed. There are nine schools within Jefferson County that qualify for FoodWise services; all of Watertown except the High School, two schools in Fort Atkinson and one school in Jefferson.
  - Gearing up for work with local farmer markets this summer. The hope is to expand the services offered at Farmers Markets this year; some markets were not offering SNAP benefits last year.
  - Participated in a Block Party with Watertown Family Connections at the Watertown Library. FoodWise provided a healthy snack of building fruit kabobs with the participants.

- Morris encouraged Krolow to reach out to the Watertown Greater Community Foundation, Tina Crave, to inform her of the FoodWise programming and establishing a relationship.
- Alison Pfau, Regional Dairy Educator, provided an oral report from her written report that was distributed in the agenda packet.
  - Jefferson hosted the regional Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Update meeting in collaboration with WI DNR. About 60 people attended the well-received event. Will look to host a meeting again next year.
  - Planning and developing short educational videos in Spanish and English on various aspects of dairy farming. Video taping will start at the end of March. Morris encouraged Pfau to share the links with committee members when completed.
  - Working with MATC to develop a certification program for dairy/Spanish.
  - Asked to join the SMART Climate team – Pfau will be providing input on feed additives and how to mitigate the green house gases.
- Jerry Wilcenski, 4-H Educator, was unable to attend the meeting. His report is included in the agenda packet.
- Julie Hill, Horticulture Outreach Specialist, provided an oral report from the written report.
  - Horticulture questions are starting to come into the office. The Extension website also has a link where individuals can ask gardening questions and then those questions are forwarded to local educators.

*Wehmeier joined the meeting at 9:00 a.m.*

- Hill hosted a spongy moth, formerly known as gypsy moth, webinar last week. The spongy moth was very prevalent last year and caused a lot of concern for homeowners.
- Hill is planning for summer education, especially Pollinator Week.
- Hill is working with a new partner, the Gathering Place, senior activity center, to develop programming for their members.

**Regional Crops Position Update and Discussion:** Committee members received a copy of the job description in their agenda packet. Wen stated that the focus of the position is on education. The position geographically covers Jefferson, Rock and Walworth counties. Discussion occurred around growing pains with the previous educator in transitioning to the regional concept. Wen explained the Extension organizational chart on who the positions report to for supervisor and programming needs. Discussion occurred. Kannard and Wehmeier both agreed that it comes down to how do we (Jefferson County) make sure we are receiving a quality product (from this position). Wen suggested that she provide an organizational chart. Kannard stated that additional conversations will be needed.

*Steve Nass joined the meeting at 9:16 a.m.*

**Next Scheduled Meetings:** April 10 and May 8, 2023

**Adjourn** – Motion by Morris, seconded by Kannard, to adjourn meeting at 9:18 a.m.

*Minutes recorded by Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist*