

# Extension Education Committee Minutes

**Date of Meeting:** April 10, 2023

**Call to Order:** Chair Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

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

Steve Chmielewski and Kim Buchholz were present in-person.

Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator, Carrie Edgar, Dane County Area Director and Katelyn Broedlow were present via Zoom.

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

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** Approved as presented.

**Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from March 13, 2023:** Motion by Herbst, seconded by Foelker, 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. Buchholz stated that there is nothing abnormal at this point. She did point out that the Room 12 in-ceiling LCD projector is no longer working and is in discussion with MIS. The new Mondopad has been delivered and should be operating by tomorrow.

**Discussion on the 2024 Educator Contract and the Regional Crops Educator Position:** Kannard stated that this agenda item is to get the committee members thinking about it. Wen is not able to attend today's meeting so the discussion will be on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Kannard has received feedback that a general agriculture educator may better serve the needs of Jefferson County. The question is how we balance the needs of the County and between counties. Kannard also spoke with Allan Sweeney, County Board Supervisor in Rock County.

Wehmeier explained that the Regional Crops Educator position is split between three counties or 33% each.

The discussion is for the 2024 contract. A question was asked as to how much control do we have on this? Kannard stated that needs to be a discussion. The committee asked if the Agricultural Program Director could be present at the next meeting to explain the Extension model as well as discuss the models available to counties and options available to the counties to buy into.

Morris asked what the County's strategic plan states regarding agriculture? Wehmeier answered that the Strategic Plan states that agriculture is key to Jefferson County as well as being mentioned through the importance of natural resources, water resources and education.

Buchholz introduced Carrie Edgar, Dane County Area Director, who was asked to be at the meeting to answer questions if needed in Wen's absence. Edgar stated that the regional crops educator is scheduled to be approved for posting at this Thursday's Dean's Leadership Team meeting.

Morris asked if there were measures of productivity for agriculture in Jefferson County over the last 5 years. Foelker, who is a local farmer, said that dairy is expanding, and corn, soybeans and alfalfa continue to be strong within Jefferson County.

Edgar provided the committee with a link for the Wisconsin Agriculture Impact Report for Jefferson County in the chat. (<https://economicdevelopment.extension.wisc.edu/files/2021/10/Jefferson.pdf>)

Kannard encouraged committee members to reach out to constituents to get feedback for discussion at next month's meeting.

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

Committee members received the Extension March 2023 written report in their agenda packets.

Steve Chmielewski provided an oral report to the committee from his written report.

- Assisting the City of Fort Atkinson in planning for the Local Government Academy to increase civic participation in local government. There are five sessions set for late summer. The City of Fort Atkinson has applied to the Community Foundation for funding to support the initiative.
- Working with Walt Christianson on Parks Planning for the Town of Koshkonong.
- The strategic plan final report for the City of Whitewater was finalized and sent last week.
- Continuing to stay updated on the statewide broadband project. Statewide there are two surveys that are being worked on. They are on the willingness to pay or affordability, critical information access and affordability in the next five years. Wehmeier stated that the County is interested and waiting for the tools to be available. There are 9 regional meetings scheduled within the next two months. There is a meeting for the general public on May 18 from 11-12:30 p.m. Wehmeier stated that the next Broadband workgroup meeting is on Tuesday, April 25 at 9 a.m. where they will discuss the money coming into the County.

All other educators were unable to attend the meeting. Please refer to the written report for their monthly update. Also, feel free to reach out to an educator with any specific questions.

**Next Scheduled Meetings:** May 8 and June 12, 2023

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

*Minutes recorded by Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist*