

# Extension Education Committee Minutes

**Date of Meeting:** June 12, 2023

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

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

Alison Pfau, Jerry Wilcenski, Christine Wen (Area Director) and Kim Buchholz were present in-person.

Steve Chmielewski, Julie Hill and Katelyn Broedlow were present via Zoom.

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

**Public Comment:** None

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

**Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from May 8, 2023:** Motion by Foelker, seconded by Herbst, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

**Communications:** Wen shared hard copies of "Extension Strategic Planning Process Report for External Partners" that she shared electronically previously with members. She explained that this is a progress report of what has been identified statewide through the initial stages of the strategic planning process.

**Review of 2023 Departmental Budget:**

Committee members received a printout of the current budget. No updates to report.

**Update on Regional Crops Educator Position:**

Wen stated that the Regional Crops Educator position closed last week. Wen explained the interview process and asked if the committee members would like to participate in the process. Kannard stated that he would like to participate. Wen will send him the tentative timeline/dates.

**Update on 4-H Summer Assistant**

Wilcenski reported that an assistant has been hired with the hope that she will start this week. Her name is Hanna Brattlie. Hanna will attend next month's meeting to meet the committee.

**Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:**

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

Chrissy Wen, Extension Area Director, gave a brief oral report for FoodWise in the absence of the Coordinator. A new FoodWise educator has been hired; she started today. She is bilingual and her home office will be Walworth County but will cover both Jefferson and Walworth Counties.

Steve Chmielewski, Community Development Educator, provided an oral report to the committee.

- Continuing to work with the City of Fort Atkinson with their Local Government Academy to increase civic participation in local government. There are 13 residents enrolled in the five-session series which starts July 25 and runs through September 12.
- The City of Watertown has decided to offer a Local Government Academy. They will kick off theirs in January 2024.
- Work continues with the City of Jefferson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on a strategic plan. They are currently in the pre-plan/data gathering phase which will continue through summer. The four-session series with the board will kick off in September.
- The Friends group of the Jefferson County Parks Department has regained momentum. They are looking at to get it up and running by the end of summer.

Alison Pfau, Regional Dairy Educator, provided an oral report for the committee.

- She has been writing dairy articles for publication due to this time of year being very busy for farmers.
- She has had 10 farms agree to participate in her Alternative Forages research project (cover crops) to understand why producers are using them and what is the nutritional value of these crops. She is currently collecting samples from the locations.
- She attended an animal nutrition course in New York for professional development.
- She shared one of her videos on calf-care & comfort to the committee. Very well done and informative. Committee feedback was very positive.

Jerry Wilcenski, 4-H educator, provided an oral report for the committee.

- 14 youth participated in the Livestock Judging contest in Wood County this past week. All our teams qualified for the State Competition which will take place on July 24.
- The Jefferson County Meats Judging Team has qualified for nationals in Kansas in October.
- The Dairy Project hosted their Dairy Project Learning Days on June 10 and 11. It was a successful 2-day event that offered great educational opportunities for youth.
- The Dairy Committee also hosted a Dairy Tour where youth and parents were able to visit four dairy locations within the County and see various aspects of modern dairy operations. Many of the participants were new to dairy. Was a good experience for all who attended.
- This Friday is Cloverbud Day Camp that will be held at our office. An additional Cloverbud Day Camp will be held in August.
- There will be one 4-H Club turning into a SPIN Club which will focus on Career Readiness.
- Wilcenski is working on developing his plan of work.

Julie Hill, Horticulture Educator, provided an oral report for the committee.

- Julie is answering many horticulture questions on random topics for Rock, Walworth and Jefferson Counties.
- She provided a Garden Talk this past Friday.
- Next week is Pollinator Week. There are many educational opportunities being offered. All educational opportunities are free but must pre-register. On Wednesday, Julie will be presenting at the Jefferson Library.

**Next Scheduled Meetings:** July 10, August 14 and September 11, 2023

**Adjourn** – Motion by Foelker, seconded by Herbst, to adjourn meeting at 9:11 a.m.

*Minutes recorded by Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist*