

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: July 10, 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.

Steve Chmielewski, Alison Pfau, Christine Wen (Area Director) and Kim Buchholz were present in-person. Jerry Wilcenski joined the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Lisa Krolow 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 June 12, 2023: Motion by Foelker, seconded by Herbst, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Communications: None

Review of 2023 Departmental Budget: Committee members received a printout of the current budget. Wen stated that the budget is on-target. No questions were asked.

Update on Regional Crops Educator Position:

Wen stated that the interviewing for the Regional Crops Educator position was completed on June 28th. She is working on calling references currently and is hoping to extend an offer next week. Wen anticipates a start date in early Fall. She will provide an update at the August meeting.

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:

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

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. A grant was secured to support this programming through the community foundation.
- Work continues with the City of Jefferson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on a strategic plan. The four-session series with the board will kick off in September. They are also working on a membership survey to be distributed as well as applying for funding through the Watertown Community Health Foundation to support the outreach.
- Took some vacation time during June/July.

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

- Planning has begun for a Carbon Conference to be held in 2024. She is serving on the planning committee.
- Work continues on the Alternative Forages research project (cover crops) to understand why producers are using them and what is the nutritional value of these crops. Samples will again be taken in the Fall.
- Wrote a feed additives article. Due to the length of the article, she will be splitting it into 2 or more.
- Work will continue on producing educational videos on a variety of topics.
- Coordinating a webinar series in September in full Spanish.

(Jerry joined the meeting during Alison's report)

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

- This is Jefferson County Fair week. The office will be promoting 4-H through a booth at the Fair. Each day will have an art-themed project for youth to do. We will be surveying our 4-H youth with the focus on growth mindset. The Livestock Committee will be hosting a skillathon competition on Friday afternoon.
- The Livestock Committee has kicked off their Sweepstakes Raffle as a fundraiser.

Julie Hill, Horticulture Educator, was unable to attend the meeting. Buchholz provided a brief report. provided an oral report for the committee.

- Julie has an upcoming program at the Jefferson Public Library later this month about climate change and gardening.
- Julie continues to answer a variety of gardening questions from residents.

Lisa Krolow, FoodWise Coordinator, provided an oral report for the committee.

- Lisa has hired a new educator who started about a month ago. The educator is doing a lot of shadowing currently with Lisa.
- Continuing to work with the Bread Basket, a food pantry, in Watertown.
- The Bread Basket also does a mobile pantry at subsidized sites, mainly elderly and disabled. It is the goal that FoodWise will also be able to participate in these mobile pantries in the future.

Next Scheduled Meetings: August 14, September 11 and October 9, 2023

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

Minutes recorded by Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist