

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: August 14, 2023

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

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

Steve Chmielewski, Christine Wen (Area Director) and Katelyn Broedlow were present in-person. Alison Pfau joined the meeting at 8:35 a.m. Jerry Wilcenski joined the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Julie Hill was present via Zoom.

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law: In compliance.

Public Comment: None

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

Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from July 11, 2023: Motion by Foelker, seconded by Morris, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

(Alison joined the meeting during the committee minutes approval)

Communications: None

Review of 2023 Departmental Budget: Committee members received a printout of the current budget. Wen stated that the budget is on-target. Kannard asked about the expenses exceeding the revenue. Wen explained we had an unexpected cost of the Mondo pad.

Review of 2024 Submitted Departmental Budget: Wen stated that the budget has been submitted to Ben and that she has a meeting coming up with him. She explained that the contract and services fee increased by 3%. She also said that during the budget discussion with the educators they are working on identifying areas of work that will align with the Jefferson County Strategic Plan.

Update on Regional Crops Educator Position:

Wen stated that there is an accepted offer for the Regional Crops Educator position. She will hopefully be able to tell us who it is by the end of the week. Wen anticipates a start date of September 5 and the home office for the educator will be in Rock County.

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:

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

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

- Work continues with the City of Jefferson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on a strategic plan. The team is planning a four-session series with the board to help update their strategic plan for the next 3-5 years. The four-session series will start in the fall.
- The Local Government Academy has started their 5 sessions series with Fort Atkinson residents to strengthen relationships and increase civic participation in local government.
- Continuing to work with the Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce to help preplan for their strategic plan.
- Attended the National Community Development Conference in July.

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

- Alison handed out a flyer to all attendees of the webinar she has been coordinating. This is a webinar series fully Spanish spoken. She has been reaching out and visiting many dairies in the county to promote the event. She currently has 110 individuals enrolled in the webinar.
- Continuing to plan for the Carbon Conference to be held in 2024 in collaboration with Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa.
- Will continue to work on producing educational videos on a variety of topics while learning how to make additions and changes to the videos.

(Jerry joined the meeting during Alison's report)

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

- Jerry handed out survey results that was given out to 4-H youth at the fair to complete. The survey was based on self-determination and drive. Results were positive.
- This fall an agriculture spin club will be started.
- There were many participants from Jefferson County 4-H who participated at the Wisconsin State Fair.
- Work is being done to plan and coordinate fall 4-H programming.
- Continuing to work with Rock and Walworth county 4-H educators to bring the Juntos Wisconsin program to the Whitewater High School.

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

- Continues to answer horticulture questions from residents.
- The online course is now open. This is a steppingstone to the Master Gardener course.
- There are a few upcoming webinars in August that will also be recorded. They include: Growing Garlic, Composting Basics and Soil Testing.
- Working with the UW-Whitewater Continuing Education Department on programming.

Lisa Krolow, FoodWise Coordinator, was unable to attend the meeting.

Next Scheduled Meetings: September 11, October 9, November 13 and December 11, 2023

Adjourn – Motion by Foelker, seconded by Morris, to adjourn meeting at 9:08 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Katelyn Broedlow, Administrative Assistant