

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: September 11, 2023

Call to Order: Chair Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:30 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), Alison Pfau, Steve Chmielewski, Julie Hill and Kim Buchholz were present in-person.

Lisa Krolow was present via Zoom from 8:45 am through her report.

Josh Kamps joined the meeting at 8:45 a.m. Jerry Wilcenski was absent.

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 August 14, 2023: Motion by Morris, seconded by Foelker, 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.

Sharing of the County Partnership Guidance Document

Wen shared the "County Partnership Guidance" document with the committee. This document was developed a couple years ago and has been shared previously with the committee. Wen wanted to share it again to continue the transparency.

Introduction of Regional Crops Educator:

(Josh Kamps joined the meeting during this item.)

Wen introduced Josh Kamps, our new Regional Crops Educator, to the committee and gave a brief background on him. Josh will be serving the counties of Jefferson, Rock and Walworth counties. Josh then introduced himself and took questions from the committee members. Members welcomed Josh to Jefferson County!

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:

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

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

- The Fort Atkinson Local Government Academy is wrapping up this week. This was a series of 5 sessions with 12 Fort Atkinson residents to strengthen relationships and increase civic participation in local government. Tuesday, September 12 is the last session.
- Tomorrow morning, September 12, is the official start for the City of Jefferson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors strategic planning process. 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.
- Discussion continued with the Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce to help plan for their strategic plan. Tentatively looking at winter.

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

- Alison has been doing on-farm consultation in Dodge, Dane and Jefferson counties.
- Alison continues work on the upcoming webinar series in Spanish. As of the meeting time, she had 200 registered.
- She continues to work on the planning team for the upcoming Carbon Conference to be held in 2024 in collaboration with Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa. It will be held in LaCrosse at the Radisson hotel.
- Alison is in the 2nd half now of the alternative forages sampling. She takes samples when contacted by the farms.
- She is in the initial planning stages of developing a workshop on the proper administration of vaccines and medications. It would be available in English and Spanish. They are targeting a February timeframe.
- Alison continues to develop short educational videos.
- Alison will be developing an Instagram account to post videos and short educational pieces.

Jerry Wilcenski, 4-H educator, was unable to attend the meeting. His written report was provided.

- Chrissy Wen stated that it is enrollment time for 4-H as well as clubs are renewing their Charters and turning in their Annual Financial Reports.

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

- FoodWise has been working with the Breadbasket in Watertown and will be doing their mobile pantry sites in August and September. They have worked specifically on a yogurt product that the pantry was receiving that was not being utilized. With FoodWise doing taste tests, the product has started to be more fully utilized by clients.
- They will be attending a meeting with all housing managers to discuss hosting nutrition series at their sites.
- Lisa met with Jefferson Human Services and the ADRC regarding senior meal sites nutrition. They have a educational requirement so FoodWise would like to participate with them in providing education.
- They will continue to work with HeadStart and provide classroom instruction as well as information to families.
- There has been an expressed interest in the Strong Body program. Lisa will continue discussions.
- A Wisconsin Success Story was highlighted in the USDA Snap newsletter.

(Lisa left the meeting after giving her report at 9:06 a.m.)

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

- Julie will be providing a continuing education session at the Community Center in Whitewater later this month.
- Julie continues her work with the Statewide webinar series. There are typically 600-1,000 registrants for these programs.
- Foundations of Horticulture, an online course, is now open. This is a steppingstone to the Master Gardener course. Julie teaches part of the optional online lab that goes along with the course. There are 600 individuals signed up Statewide for the 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.
- Julie continues to answer horticulture questions from residents.

- There were some questions and discussion occurred on general gardening and climate change.

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

Morris asked to add a “Future Topics” agenda item to our future agendas.

Adjourn – Motion by Foelker, seconded by Morris, to adjourn meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist