

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: October 9, 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.

Christine Wen (Area Director), Alison Pfau, Jerry Wilcenski, Josh Kamps and Kim Buchholz were present in-person. Steve Chmielewski was present via Zoom.

Lisa Krolow and Julie Hill were 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 September 11, 2023: Motion by Foelker, seconded by Morris, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Communications: Wen highlighted for the committee the Local Government Leadership Academy news release that was included in the meeting packet.

Review of 2023 Departmental Budget: Committee members received a printout of the current budget. Wen stated that the budget is on target.

Review of the 2024 Departmental Budget: Committee members received a printout of the 2024 departmental budget for their review. Wen stated that the budget is very similar to 2023. She noted that mileage was decreased because now the agricultural educator mileage is being covered through the Ag Institute. A 3% increase in personnel costs. The budget was approved by the Finance Committee.

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:

Committee members received the Extension September 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 has wrapped up. On September 22 and 28 there were testimonials published in Fort online as well as the Daily Union. Survey shows an increase in participation.
- City of Jefferson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors strategic planning process session 3 is being held tomorrow. The survey they distributed received 74 out of 192 responses. A response rate of 38% which is pretty good. The findings of the survey will be presented on October 24.
- Discussions are continuing with the Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce with their strategic plan.

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

- The last session of her webinar series will be held this week. She has had about 300 registrants with 40-50 attending the webinar. A recording of the webinars will also be posted and communicated to registrants.
- She is working collaboratively with Josh Kamps and William Hoffman to conduct a Beef Workshop for the region in November. Will be held in Whitewater.
- She is continuing to develop a workshop on the proper administration of vaccines and medications. It would be available in English and Spanish.
- She attended World Dairy Expo last week and was able to meet some producers and make contacts.

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

- The 4-H Awards Banquet was held last night with about 200 people attending.
- Meat Judging Team is headed to the National Competition in Kansas this next week.
- Six Livestock Youth Award Winners are attending the National American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY in November. The lowest point winner had 150 hours of educational activities and the highest was 215 hours.
- Within his plan of work, Jerry has developed a Food Forward program where he will be using regional agriculture educator expertise and other educational resources for session of meat, dairy, crops & grains and fruits and vegetables. Focus is on the whole food industry; raising animals and crops to butchering to plate.

Lisa Krolow, FoodWise Coordinator, was unable to attend the meeting. Her written report is provided.

Julie Hill, Horticulture Educator, was unable to attend the meeting. Her written report is provided.

Josh Kamps, Regional Crops Educator, provided an oral report for the committee.

- The Badger Crop Connect is held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. This is for all things seasonal with crop production. This Wednesday is the next one where an entomologist will be speaking on how we can better forecast insect damage so tat we are using pesticides, etc. when needed.
- Field Day is scheduled in Rock County.
- Manure Composting Field Day was held.
- Kamps is focused on building relationships within the counties at this point.
- Discussed with Patricia Cicero possible options of using the County Farm for demonstrations.
- Jefferson County will host two Pesticide Applicator Trainings this year.
- He is fielding ag questions, specifically land rent questions. He appreciates the opportunity during these discussions to be able to talk through all variables to consider. Many of the land owners are either absentee or non-operator land owners so assisting with education is valuable.
- The committee asked a few questions regarding usage of drones.

Next Scheduled Meetings: November 13 and December 11, 2023

Possible Items of Discussion/Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings: None

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist