

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: November 13, 2023

Call to Order: Chair Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Roll Call: Committee members present in person: John Kannard, Matt Foelker and Mary Roberts.

Ben Wehmeier (County Administrator), Christine Wen (Area Director), Alison Pfau, Jerry Wilcenski, Steve Chmielewski, Lisa Krolow and Katelyn Broedlow were present in-person.

Julie Hill and Josh Kamps were present via Zoom.

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law: In compliance.

Public Comment: None

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

Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from October 9, 2023: Motion by Foelker, seconded by Kannard, 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.

Dwayne Morris joined the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

Review of the 2024 Departmental Budget: Wehmeier stated there were no budget amendments. Wen state the Community Development Educator salary and benefits is now a flat fee. She also stated the Agriculture Educators mileage is now being paid through the state.

Discussion and Possible Approval of 2024 Educator Contract and consideration of multi-year contract option: Wen stated the only change is the 3% increase in personnel costs. She noted the county will again receive a \$10,000 discount, as we have in the past, for having an Extension Office in the county. Wen explained that if the committee decided to do the multi-year contract option it would be revisited after two years. If a position becomes vacant or a position is added the contract could be changed if needed. Wen stated the cost is lower this year because of the change of the flat fee for the Community Development Educator position and will increase 3% annually. She explained Exhibit A is allowing her as a State employee to approve purchases, approve time, etc. similar to a county department head. Morris asked the educators for their opinion on the multi-year contract. Chmielewski stated the multi-year contract provides more stability for the educators and allows educators to commit to longer term projects. Krolow stated her position is federally funded. Pfau commented to was happy with the multi-year contract option. Hill stated it was ultimately up to the committee but agrees that it adds stability. Kamps stated he had no opinion but is happy working in Jefferson County. Motion by Morris, seconded by Foelker, to approve a two-year multi-year contract option. Motion passed. Motion by Foelker, seconded by Morris, to approve the 2024 Educator Contract. Motion Passed.

Discussion on Committee meeting time and date: Wehmeier stated an email was received to consider changing the time and date of the Extension Education Committee meeting due to a conflict with another committee meeting. No action was taken and the time and date will stay the same.

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:

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

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

- The City of Jefferson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors conducted a satisfaction survey and had a response rate of 39%. The findings of the survey have helped provide input for their decision making. They have drafted four key foundation pillars as well as goals and objectives for those pillars. They will be taking this draft to a board retreat to layout their plan for 2024. The finalized report should hopefully be done in January.

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

- She concluded her webinar series and is planning to host another one next year.
- She has been doing on farm consultations. She has been working with employees on communication and visits the farm regularly to see what their needs are.
- She is working collaboratively with Josh Kamps to conduct a Beef Workshop for the region this week in Whitewater. She will be showing attendees the proper way to administer vaccinations to beef cattle.
- She is working with Colorado State University on a survey they are conducting on cattle transportation. She will be talking with Equity and other farms that do long-distance transportation of cattle. There are not many strict regulations on transporting animals and they are seeing a lot of stress on animals once they reach their destination.

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

- He just returned from the National American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY yesterday. The youth that went along enjoyed the experience. Youth were chosen based on educational points received during the 4-H year. This opportunity allowed youth to see the industry as a whole.
- The Bake-Off Competition just started for the year. It is a spin-off of The Great British Bake-Off. They started the competition off with the category of breads.
- The Food 4Ward program series will begin in December. This program will focus is on the whole food industry; similar to a farm to table.
- Jerry received charters and AFRs for all 4-H clubs.

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

- She continues to answer questions but it has slowed down.
- She is planning online webinars and presentations with partners for the next year.
- She is finishing up the virtual lab that comes complimentary with the online gardening course. They had about 200 people throughout the state signed up for this course.
- She will be meeting with the Homeless Coalition in Fort Atkinson to do a consultation with them on landscaping for one of their properties.

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

- She continues to attend the mobile food pantries to talk with residents about nutrition.
- She met with the ADRC who has a requirement to do nutrition education at least monthly. She will be partnering with them starting in January to provide education in Jefferson, Fort Atkinson and Lake Mills.
- She attended four flu vaccine clinics with the Health Department to teach nutrition education to children while parents completed paper work.
- She hosted an event with Watertown Family Connections. They talked about how parents on role models when it comes to eating. The parents and children made a healthy apple snack together.
- She has 5 new partner opportunities in Whitewater.
- The committee stated that numbers of individuals attending food pantries are rising.

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

- He is working on a cropping system based on what farmers are doing in the fields that is affecting profitability and what farmers are doing in their cropping rotation that is either causing more stress or elevating stress.
- He is doing a presentation tonight on cover crops with the Farmer Led Watershed Group.
- He has been collaborating with Alison Pfau to conduct a Beef Workshop for the region this week in Whitewater.
- He will be hosting a regional Badger Crops and Soils update at the end of November.
- He will be leading a discussion on planting alfalfa green at the Wisconsin Cover Crops Conference in December.
- He is a part of the Grain Marketing Team and will be forming the online training portion. It will be self-paced for individuals to learn skills on marketing grain.

Next Scheduled Meetings: December 11, 2023 and January 8, 2024

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

Adjourn – Motion by Foelker, seconded by Morris, to adjourn at 9:40 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Katelyn Broedlow, Administrative Assistant