

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: December 11, 2023

Call to Order: Chair Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:32am.

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

Christine Wen (Area Director), Alison Pfau, Jerry Wilcenski and Katelyn Broedlow were present in-person.

Julie Hill and Lisa Krolow 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 November 13, 2023: Motion by Foelker, seconded by Morris, 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 we are ending the year fine and that there will be savings with the vacancies of positions.

Steve Chmielewski joined the meeting at 8:35am.

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:

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

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

- He is wrapping up the Strategic Planning Process with the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce. The draft is ready and it should be finished by the end of the month.
- He is going to be having a conversation with Deb Reinbold, Director of Economic Development, on a new program E2 and how to leverage it in the beginning of 2024. This program works with communities to plan and decide how they support entrepreneurship.
- He presented at a conference in Chattanooga a couple of weeks ago.

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

- She worked collaboratively with Josh Kamps on conducting the Beef Workshop in Whitewater. It was very successful and they had about 25 people attend. The individuals were happy to have this workshop and would like more in the future.
- She is working with other Educators in Extension on a climate change project regarding methane in dairy cattle. Rosy-Lane Holsteins in Watertown is going to be a part of this project. The purpose of this project is to make people aware of methane in cattle and interested in the topic.
- She is working on a vaccination workshop which will show individuals on how to properly administer vaccinations.

- She is continuing to work with Colorado State University on a survey they are conducting on cattle transportation. Individuals in Jefferson County are starting to fill this survey out. She continues to encourage people to fill it out.

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

- He had the second Bake-Off Competition yesterday. The youth had to bring in cookies for this competition. The youth enjoyed it and learned about baking styles and techniques.
- The Food 4Ward program series began yesterday. The program was based on Meats. A food scientist came in and talked about food pathogens and careers as a food scientist. There was also a USDA inspector who taught the youth about what USDA inspectors do and how they grade. They talked about livestock genetics and feed. Jerry helped the youth cook rabbit and steak. they learned about the composition of searing meats. The next program is on dairy and youth will make mozzarella cheese.

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

- She is developing new programming for next year.
- She will be meeting with the Homeless Coalition in Fort Atkinson and Heart of the City to learn about a landscaping project that they will be doing
- She is planning and scheduling online webinars and presentations for next year.
- She continues to answer gardening questions and will have a summary of the year in her report in January.
- Roberts questioned why we are seeing less pollinators. Hill stated there are multiple factors. One of the main factors is unnecessary use of mosquito treatments and insecticides on lawns.

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

- She hosted a program for Spanish speakers in Whitewater. She had about 48 participants and will be going back in February to have another program.
- She is working with the Whitewater School District to have programming at the 3 qualifying schools in the district.
- She has had a bump on the road with the senior meal sights programming. They do not collect income info and the FoodWise program requires that at least 50% of individuals attending are receiving some sort of public benefit. She is working with ADRC on either signing a partner agreement or doing a survey at the senior meal sights to hit that 50% mark.
- She has been working with Jefferson County Head Start on starting a series of lessons in their classrooms.

Josh Kamps, Regional Crops Educator, was unable to attend the meeting.

Possible Items of Discussion/Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings: Morris stated that he would like to have a further discussion on marketing the services that Extension offers. He explained that Extension needs to market their services better. Many people do not even know that these services at County Extension Offices exist. Ultimately the UW-Extension Office in Madison needs to take a lead and market better however, he asked Chmielewski if he would do a little research on what we can do as a county office. Chmielewski stated he would start doing some digging into what other counties and states do to market their services. Information will be brought back to the committee in January or February.

Next Scheduled Meetings: January 8, February 12, March 11

Adjourn – Motion by Morris, seconded by Roberts, to adjourn at 9:32am.

Minutes recorded by Katelyn Broedlow, Administrative Specialist