

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: January 8, 2024

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, Dan Herbst.

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

Julie Hill was present via Zoom.

Others in attendance: Anita Martin

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law: In compliance.

Dwayne Morris joined the meeting via Zoom at 8:34am.

Public Comment: Martin addressed the committee to receive more information on a few questions she had.

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

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

Communications: Wen stated that there is an Associate Area Director role in Extension where an individual shadows an Area Director. She noted that Janel Heidelmeier has accepted the role as Associate Area Director and will be shadowing Wen over the next year and Heidelmeier may be at some of these meetings to see how other counties operate.

Review of 2024 Departmental Budget: Wen stated it is early and everything looks good.

Extension Office Marketing Plan: Wen stated that Chmielewski has taken a lead on the office marketing plan. Chmielewski stated he has looked at multiple marketing plans and has chosen to follow the model from the North Carolina Extension. He also noted that the Jefferson Extension Office is preparing for a Civil Rights Review and this will help us assess where the opportunities are and what audiences we need to reach. Internally the office will be looking at an overall goal for this process and start to develop and implement it.

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:

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

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

- He is finishing up working with the Jefferson Chamber Board of Directors on updating their strategic plan for next 2 years. It has gone through peer review, review with the director and now it is at the executive committee for review. They have already begun to implement strategies and he will be check in backing with them in 6 months to see if they need additional resources.
- He is having a meeting in Johnson Creek this afternoon about the E2 Program to see what their needs are as a community.

- He is working on future programming and would like to offer another local government academy to a community in Jefferson County.

Alison Pfau, Regional Dairy Educator, was unable to attend the meeting. Her written report was provided.

- Wen stated Pfau has been on vacation and will return next week.

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

- He discussed the Jefferson County 4-H demographics. There are currently 487 youth enrolled which is an 83% retention rate.
- The top projects are art and photography followed by poultry and swine for top animal projects. He mentioned that the Poultry Project has a great leader and is off to a great start with meetings.
- The rabbit project is also off to a great start and they have bred some rabbits for kids to participate with in the project.
- He referred to the success story that was handed out of the Brattlie sisters who won best in show at the Ohio National Poultry show.
- He has a Dairy Food Science Program coming up and the youth will be learning about the process of cheese making and they will be making mozzarella cheese.
- He noted that Project Learning Day is coming up in February and is a day that youth are able to take different classes throughout the day based on 4-H projects.

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

- She has wrapped up questions from last year for Jefferson and has recorded 64 questions that were answered. Most came in through an online web form. There were a lot of variety with the questions from lawn care to house plants. Most of the questions that were received were about insects, especially spongy moths, and trees. She expects that amount of questions that she received from Jefferson County residents to rise as the word gets out that she is there to answer questions.
- She is continuing to prep for the upcoming year with webinars and presentations.
- She has scheduled a presentation in Whitewater on No Mow May.
- The website has been updated with information.
- She is working on a webinar series and pollinator program which will be coming out in February.
- There is a statewide plant diagnostics class for individuals to participate in.

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

- Wen stated Krolow started a teaching series in a classroom this morning. She also mentioned that Krolow has been working incredibly hard in Jefferson county to get the FoodWise program going.

Josh Kamps, Regional Crops Educator, was unable to attend the meeting. His written report was provided.

- Wen stated Kamps is still in the phase of meeting with individuals and groups to identify their needs. She also stated that this is a planning and prepping time for him for the upcoming year.

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

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

Adjourn – Motion by Foelker, seconded by Herbst, to adjourn at 9:11am.

Minutes recorded by Katelyn Broedlow, Administrative Specialist