

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2025

Call to Order: John Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Roll Call: Committee members present in person: John Kannard, Dan Herbst, Dwayne Morris and Matt Foelker.

Chrissy Wen, Lisa Krolow, Jerry Wilcenski, Steven Chmielewski, Meghan Splinter and Katelyn Broedlow were present in-person.

Michael Luckey was present via zoom.

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law: In compliance.

Approval of Agenda: No changes.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from April 14, 2025: Motion by Morris, seconded by Foelker, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Communications: None.

Review of 2025 Departmental Budget: Wen stated the budget is on track.

Josh Kamps joined the meeting at 8:33am.

Discussion regarding continuing .2FTE Horticulture Educator in 2026: Wen referred to the attached memo. The total cost for Julie Hill for 2026 would be \$19,288. Wen stated that the increased cost over the years is due to her increased time in the office and there is a big need for her services. Discussion was had.

Julie Hill joined the meeting at 8:38am.

Elizabeth Hafften joined the meeting at 8:39am.

Alison Pfau joined the meeting at 8:40am.

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:

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

- Continues to work with the City of Jefferson Rural on Extension's program – Rural Entrepreneurial Venture.
- Will be facilitating the Real Colors Training to Jefferson County Department Heads this week.
- Continues to work on the office needs assessment.
- Working with Whitewater on their childcare crisis that they currently have.
- Meet with the Wisconsin Towns Association on April 29 in the Town of Oakland.
- Continues to work with the Southern Rail Commission. They are currently working on a study to put together a proposal on the economic impact.
- Discussion was had.

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

- The program with Dr. Temple Grandin in Madison on animal welfare in dairy cattle went very well.
- The first dairy newsletter was sent out and is attached. It is sent out in both English and Spanish. Another newsletter will be sent out next month.

- Planning another Calving Management Practice and Neonate Care in Dairy Cattle program in this area – it will most likely be held in whitewater.
- Attending a conference in Columbus, Ohio next week on animal welfare.

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

- Many programs have happened in the last month.
- Attended a Beyond Ready Conference which focused on career paths and college readiness.
- Helped teach at the Kutz Dairy Farm Tour last week. Around 500-600 youth attended.
- Preparing for many youth livestock carcass meetings that are coming up.
- Things are going well with the fair. The office is taking the lead on the Farmers Olympics.
- Discussion was had.

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

- Presented at the Lake Mills Club 55. Had an interactive program with older adults on container planting.
- Conducted a program on tree troubles at the L.D. Fargo Public Library in Lake Mills.
- Questions are starting to come in more and more. Working on promoting this service to the public.
- Very busy with ongoing programming as well as creating new programs.
- Had a great time at Youth Government Day.
- Discussion was had.

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

- Continues to plan summer programming
- Had a total of eight meetings with Head Start parents via zoom. The meetings were on budgeting for healthy food and food safety. Incentives were given to families who joined the meeting.
- Met with the ADRC Nutrition Manager to schedule a series at the Lake Mills Senior Dining Site starting in July.
- Met with some Social Workers from the Community Support Program to plan a cooking series for their clients.
- Working with the Bread Basket Food Pantry to do a gleaning program at the Watertown Farmer's Market at Riverside Park. This program would gather food from the market that may go bad before the next market and take it to the local food pantry.
- Talked with the House of Peace domestic abuse shelter about lessons there.
- Discussion was had.

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

- Attended a brainstorming meeting with Jefferson County departments that deal with agriculture. This group will meet quarterly.
- Attended a groundwater meeting in Jefferson
- Food plot planning was done last month.
- Hosted a Field Day at the Rock County Farm on cover crops and small grains.
- Working with growers on the cost of production for the upcoming year and gave them tools that Extension has.
- New moth trapping sites were placed.
- Badger Crop Connect has started up again and will be held twice a month through October.
- There has been an increase in effort to monitor slugs since they were a big problem last year.
- The Crop Scout Training will be starting soon. This program will introduce crop scouting to new scouts and agronomy businesses.
- Discussion was had.

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

Next Scheduled Meetings: June 9, July 14, August 11

Adjourn – Motion by Morris, seconded by Herbst, to adjourn at 9:29am.

Minutes recorded by Katelyn Broedlow, Administrative Specialist