

## Extension Education Committee Minutes

**Date of Meeting:** October 13, 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 and Matt Foelker.

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

Michael Luckey was present via Teams.

**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 September 8, 2025:** Motion by Herbst, seconded by Foelker, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

**Communications:** None.

**Review of 2025 Departmental Budget:** Wen stated everything is on track for the year.

*Lisa Krolow joined the meeting at 8:32am.*

*Dwayne Morris joined the meeting at 8:32am.*

*Josh Kamps joined the meeting via zoom at 8:33am.*

**Discussion and Possible Action on 4-H Support Vacancy:** Wen stated she has been having conversations with other counties around the state about the various position options. Through her conversations she has found out the county is already offering parenting and financial resources. Counties in the northern part of the state are starting to change their county support staff to associate 4-H. They have found out that sharing a 4-H Associate Position between counties has good parts and challenges. Wen stated, knowing this information she would suggest going forward with a full-time 4-H Associate Position. This position could also do administrative tasks. Discussion was had. Motion by Morris, seconded by Foelker, to move forward to hire a full-time 4-H Associate position. Motion passed.

*Elizabeth Hafften joined the meeting via zoom at 8:40am.*

*Alison Pfau joined the meeting at 8:42am.*

### **Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:**

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

- The Entrepreneurial Venture Program in Jefferson is currently engaging small business operators on where there are gaps and other items that need to be addressed and how they can support operations that are happening now and upcoming operations.
- Started working with the Village of Palmyra on filling the gap of what the Chamber of Commerce did in the Village as they have dissolved.
- The Whitewater Childcare Study surveys have closed and data is being analyzed right now. This will help the group decide on how they want to move forward with developing a new childcare center in Whitewater.
- Julie and Steve have started working again on the office needs assessment. Currently, they are meeting the Jefferson School District and food pantry.

- The Economic Impact Study with The Wisconsin River Trail Transit Committee will be deploying soon.
- A Plan Commission Workshop is happening next Monday, October 20 in Waukesha. Currently there are 85 participants signed up.
- Working with a regional team to do a regional housing summit in the area in the spring.
- Discussion was had.

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

- Handed out the September Bovi-Noticias newsletter.
- World Dairy Expo went well. Hosted the Spanish sessions.
- The EI Break Info Lechero webinar series is going very well - 500 people are registered.
- Attend the Smart Calf Rearing Conference.
- Working with the USDA on the Prohand Project which is going to start next year. This project will work on taking data from farms on animal and human welfare.
- Helping with a pilot training this Friday on safety in collaboration with farm management. This will be a train the trainers program to allow farm managers to then train their employees.
- Discussion was had.

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

- 4-H enrollment period is happening and going well. People can pay online now.
- 4-H Online has updated its training programs for volunteers and it has been very effective.
- Clubs are starting back up.
- Audited all of the Club Annual Financial Reviews and uploaded them to the state website.
- Planning many programs for the upcoming year: Food science, meat science and baking programs.
- Attended the Care and Share Fair this past weekend to talk with people about 4-H.
- Discussion was had.

Julie Hill, Horticulture Educator, was unable to attend the meeting.

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

- Continuing to attend the Watertown Farmers Market on Tuesdays to glean food. As of now 3,726 pounds of produce have been gleaned. These foods will be distributed at The Bread Basket Food Pantry. The last Tuesday of this month will be the final day of the gleaning program.
- Referred to the article in the packet on the gleaning program and the impact it has had on the community.
- Discussion was had.

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

- Shared a few pictures of johnson grass weed plants that they have been researching over the past month. He shared some characteristics of the weed. The team will be creating articles and publications on this weed.
- Had a very successful weed management workshop with the theme of targeted weed management.
- Harvested some crops at the Rock County farm.
- Continuing to work on the NOPP trial for nitrogen management research.
- Discussion was had.

**Possible Items of Discussion/Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings:** 4-H Support Update

**Next Scheduled Meetings:** November 10, December 8, January 12

**Adjourn** – Motion by Foelker, seconded by Herbst, to adjourn at 9:57am.

*Minutes recorded by Katelyn Broedlow, Administrative Specialist*