

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date of Meeting: September 8, 2017

Meeting called to order by: Lloyd Zastrow, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Kannard, Nelan, Patrick and Zastrow were present.

Members Absent: Hartz

Agents Present: Georgson, Jones, Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator, Chrissy Wen, Area Director.

Others Present: Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist

Certification of Open Meetings Law: The agenda has been duly posted and the door is open.

Roll Call (establish a quorum): Quorum present

Approval of Agenda for Possible Rearrangement: None; Motion by motion to accept the agenda as printed.

Approval of August 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

Motion made by Patrick seconded by Kannard, to approve the August 14, 2017 minutes as printed with change. Motion unanimously approved.

Communications: None

Public Comment: None

Item: Update, Discussion and Input on the nEXT Generation Model

Discussion and Possible Action on Educator Positions

Chrissy Wen, Area Director, explained that on September 14 at 1 p.m. there will be a meeting to discuss the Community Resource Educator position within Dodge and Jefferson County. We will be exploring how we can best serve Jefferson County; getting people in the room to see if there is a connection between Jefferson and Dodge Counties. It is an exploring session to get a better

understanding of what the possibilities are and take that information as to what is best for Extension to meet the needs of the County. The meeting is being held at the Watertown Public Library from 1-3:45 p.m. Discussion occurred. Georgson provided an overview of Steve Grabow's work. Wehmeier stated that the area of Community and Natural Resources is a big area. He also stated that we have not really dived into the Family Living Program area. The goal is to make sure that the resources are working together versus duplicating resources. Wen stated that it is an investment; we do the best we can to match the services for the needs.

Wen also gave the staff a huge thank you for helping her get her feet wet in Jefferson County. Various questions, comments and discussion occurred around what positions could be within the department. No action was taken pending information from September 14 meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action on 4-H Fee

Wehmeier stated that some analysis has been completed. In the 2018 budget, this revenue line item was reduced to \$12,500. This is a compromise that works on a sliding scale fee. Motion by Nelan, seconded by Patrick, to approve the fee that was discussed at the last meeting. Kannard opposed; all others approved. Motion approved.

Discussion occurred regarding the Family Living and 4-H Youth Development Educators positions. No action was taken.

Item: Update of Jefferson County Farm Technology Days

Georgson reported that we are in good shape. All of the operating committees (16) have chairs identified; Innovation Square is still struggling; we have concepts but there is nothing defined. Georgson explained that Innovation Square was developed approximately 4-5 years ago to highlight the newest and greatest innovations within the agricultural industry. Many of these companies are startup companies and do not have the staff to support two booths. We are looking at highlighting Jefferson County agriculture, ag business, etc. – we have extremely diverse agricultural businesses.

The Operating committees are beginning to convene; considering the tasks required and the volunteers to accomplish those tasks. The scale model tractor decision is hopefully imminent. The delay has been through communications with China. The Traffic, Safety and Parking Committee has met and reviewed the traffic patterns. The Sheriff's Department has been great to work with. LaVern did an ag literacy session at the Walter Family Farm for a bank board that has little agriculture context – what is Farm Tech, Jefferson County Agriculture and also Wisconsin Agriculture. The bank board wanted to have that as an outreach. Discussion occurred.

Item: Review of 2017 Departmental Budget

Georgson explained that in all likelihood UW-Extension will have money that will be going back to the County. Wehmeier explained that he will request that \$30,000 from Finance to be carried forward to 2018 for Farm Technology Days from the 2017 budget. In addition, UW-Extension budgeted in 2018 for capital item to replace their departmental copier for \$10,000. This will be purchased this year rather than in 2018.

Item: Discussion and Possible Action on 2018 Budget

A copy of the current budget was distributed to the committee for their review. Wehmeier stated that this is what is going forward to the County Board next week. He reviewed the budget with the committee and answered questions.

Motion by Patrick, seconded by Nelan, to approve the budget request for the 2018 budget. Motion passed.

Item: Discussion of Monthly Agent Reports

Georgson reported that consumer horticulture questions on trees, gardens, etc. have been steady. He appreciates the work that the Plant Health Advisors do on a regular basis. He worked with a farmer on a peach orchard. Georgson attempted to secure a specialist to assist him and was told that there was no budget for travel to come into the County. In crops programming, there is extreme variability in crop development; there are a lot of immature crops. If we get an early frost, we are in trouble. Our growing degree units were on track but we need warmer temperatures for a prolonged time frame. Dry hay has been a challenge. Prices should come down significantly. There is a lot of

feed for the livestock we have. Unfortunately, prices are low and going lower which will produce a lot of stress for families within the County. A lot of uncertainty for individuals in agriculture. Dairy and Livestock programming, we hosted the Manure Expo. Georgson assisted with the tour and script. There has been questions on goats. Beef cattle continues to take some interest. Poorer forage can go to beef. This is a market that can really be volatile. We are fortunate that we have good marketing levels and processing plants. Georgson he continues to work with department head responsibilities on the office budget and the transferring of duties.

Jones reviewed his written report. Jefferson County 4-H Program took 30 projects, not counting animals, to Wisconsin State Fair. He met a student from Japan that was staying with a 4-H family. He has worked to start getting Charter documents distributed and completed with transitioning with treasurers. Jones noted that the 4-H enrollment packet was completed. The 4-H Program is having a fairly significant number of general leaders transitioning out of leadership. We are transitioning into a new 4-H year. Jones explained that he is excited to work with the Meat Animal Project (MAP), Horse and Leaders Association to really develop their leadership and functioning sub-committees that bring ideas to the committee as a whole. Jones stated one focus will be on 4-H Volunteer Development Committee on the Animal Welfare committee at a State level. He is currently working with the awards committee to host the Special Emphasis and Awards Annual banquet. He is also working through the Special Emphasis theme. There is a National push to develop a registry of 4-H alumni. So Jefferson County is going to target something at Fair next year to alumni. True Leaders is the National 4-H week theme. Jones also did a 5 minute radio program with Michael Clish.

Jones also highlighted Dustin Winkelman's report for the committee. He was a great asset to our staff this summer.

It was mentioned to the committee that one of the currently vacant offices within the Department will be rented to the Community Action Coalition through next June 2018 with the possibility to be extended. There is a new focus on transitioning youth out of the foster care program to the adult world.

Upcoming Agenda Items and Meeting Dates: Future Agenda items: Update on Jefferson County Farm Technology Days, Update on nEXT Generation (draft MOU, job duties of combining positions), 2017 Budget, 2018 Budget, Monthly Reports

Adjournment: Adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.