

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date of Meeting: March 12, 2018

Meeting called to order by: Lloyd Zastrow, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Members Present: Kannard, Nelan and Zastrow were present. Patrick joined meeting at 8:36 a.m. Hartz absent.

Members Absent: None

Educators/County Staff Present: Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; Jim Schroeder, County Board Chair; LaVern Georgson; Chrissy Wen, Area Director; Kim Buchholz; Alexa Zoellner, Daily Union

Others Present: None

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: Motion by Nelan, seconded by Kannard, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion approved.

Approval of February 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Kannard, seconded by Nelan, to approve the February 12, 2018 as printed. Motion unanimously approved.

Communications: Contract changes were made. That has been approved and signed.

Item: Discussion & Possible Action on Communities Extension Educator Vacancy

Wen reviewed the written document that was distributed electronically to the committee. Wen mentioned that if the committee settled on proceeding with a 1.0 FTE, the position would need to be approved by UWEX leadership since the .5 position is what is budgeted. Wehmeier also reminded the committee would need authorization from the Finance Committee to release the funds regardless of a full or half time position.

Kannard stated that he has not seen a need for the full time position; no one has come forward with a pressing need. Georgson replied that the office has had three to four requests over the past year that they have asked other Extension Offices to handle. He also reminded the committee that the document represented the starting point for the program/position.

Extensive discussion occurred regarding the Community Resource Development Educator position. Motion by Nelan to table the decision on the Community Resource Development Educator until June 2018, seconded by Kannard. Motion approved.

Item: Update on Positive Youth Development Educator Position

Wen stated that the position description is in draft form and is in the waiting phase; it has been pushed to the Institute. Position still has to go in front of the Dean. Wen will hire someone as quickly as possible once we get the go ahead.

Item: Discussion and Possible Action on Memorandum of Understanding

Wen referred to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and reminded the committee that this is the draft form. In the Fall, there will be the last opportunity to have some input. Wen explained that this document is designed to serve as a blanket MOU that will be utilized across the state. A question was asked on how input can be provided. Wen replied that input may be emailed directly to the State or to her and then she will communicate it back to the State.

Item: Update on Contract Amendment Process

Wen shared that she was asked at the last committee meeting to research the contract amendment process. Wen reported that they would just make the changes. There really isn't a formalized process. Wen can simply let the Office of Financial Services know and they can make the change. The Committee would need to be in agreement to amend the contract.

Item: Update of nEXT Generation Model

Wen reported that there is not a lot to update. With the budget cut, they are really trying to identify the needs for the positions. UW-Extension will be transitioning to UW-Madison. Wen feels this is great for UW-Extension; the whole idea of the Wisconsin Idea. The committee asked Wen to share an organizational chart at the next meeting.

Item: Update of Jefferson County Farm Technology Days

Georgson reported that Farm Technology Days has more committee meetings and work every week. Fundraising is starting to see some results of their efforts with confirmations. A lot of work has been done at the \$250 sponsorship level where there was a strong interest by the host family to do a bench.

The scale collectible model looks like we are going to go in a different direction. The model we had we believed was a home run; there is a little speculation that the company wants to own it. We are looking at an alternative model. We will have to make a decision in the next 45-60 days. Final proposal will be brought back to the March meeting.

Innovation Square, the center of tent city, continues to take shape. We are hoping to highlight businesses of Jefferson County. Foods committee has been working regularly. Menus are just about finalized. A signature food item will be announced in the near future.

LaVern thanked Alexa Zoellner with the Daily Union for capturing Farm Technology Days on the article last week. Featured it well. A couple of committees have adjusted a little and that will continue a little bit. Some of them are functioning more intensely. Most of the committees are populated with enough people.

We have people and groups that are stepping forward Foods committee will need 600 volunteers. Field demonstrations need 250 volunteers. We should have a really interesting mix of field demonstrations. Parking will need quite a few people. 1500 volunteers is the estimated need.

Item: Review of 2018 Departmental Budget

Georgson reported that the budget looks good at this point.

Item: Discussion of Monthly Agent Reports

LaVern reviewed his written report with the committee. He has stated to receive horticulture questions on lawns, bugs, bushes and trees. We are almost out of winter hibernation. Crops programming: grain prices have come up a little bit in the last couple of weeks. Rents have come down a little bit. If we end up with tariffs, if that induces trade wars, Mexico is our corn export; China is the number 1 soybean export. Exports account for 1 of every 4-5 bushels goes overseas; another trade partner. If steel prices change significantly machinery prices will continue to go up.

Agriculture is identified at the most hazardous job. In Dairy and Livestock programming, we hosted a confined animal feeding operation meeting. Georgson's presentation on communicating with non-farmers was received very well. Also various regional programs have been brought to our location such as the Cattle Feeder workshop where we had people from four counties talking about finishing cattle market.

Georgson continues to collaborate with Kim and Katelyn on 4-H programming items.

Farming is not just the small farmer anymore; it is creeping up into the middle sized farms. Discussion on prices of land increasing so quickly. Agriculture has the highest suicide rate. Average age of a farmer is 60 years old. Land prices of \$8-10,000 an acre become prohibitive to get young people involved. Organic market seems to be saturated at this point. A lot of circumstances that farmers are dealing with. Zastrow stated that the little guy can't survive.

Upcoming Agenda Items and Meeting Dates: Update on Jefferson County Farm Technology Days, Update on nEXT Generation, update on Positive Youth Development Educator hiring, Monthly Reports

Adjournment: Adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m. Motion by Patrick, seconded by Kannard.

Note: Next scheduled meeting is Monday, April 9, 2018.