

## UNIVERSITY EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Date of Meeting:** June 11, 2018

**Meeting called to order by:** Mr. Schroeder called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Herbst, Kelly, Kannard and Zastrow were present. Roberts absent.

**Members Absent:** None

**Educators/County Staff Present:** Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; LaVern Georgson; Chrissy Wen, Area Director; Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist; Alexa Zoellner, Daily Union

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**Others Present:** None

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

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**Public Comment:** None

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**Roll Call (establish a quorum):** Quorum present

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**Approval of Agenda for Possible Rearrangement:** None

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**Approval of April 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by Zastrow, seconded by Kannard, to approve the March 12, 2018 as printed. Motion unanimously approved.

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**Communications:** None

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**Item:** Update on Positive Youth Development Educator Position

Roberts joined meeting. Wen stated that the position is at the Human Resources level and should be posted any time. Wen will keep the committee updated.

**Item:** Update of nEXT Generation Model

Wen stated that UWEX is doing a situation needs analysis throughout the State. We are trying to figure out what are the needs in Wisconsin; gathering some data points. Using data we already have and making a report with that. Second is to engage with the County through this committee, the County Administrator and the County Board Chair as to what they see the needs are within the County. Wen hopes to be able to have a 15 minute discussion at our July meeting on what the needs are. The final report will be given to the Institute directors so they can address the needs.

Wen reported that a Natural Resource Educator has been hired through the Environmental Resource Center in Stevens Point. Michelle will be housed in Jefferson County. She will be involved in the staff meetings, reporting to John Exo. Wehmeier stated that the logistical pieces need to be worked out. Michelle will start on July 2 and she will be at our July meeting.

Wen also reported to the committee that there have been some conversations about the Community Resource Educator position. Extension's FTE's are at capacity. We have been asking question about how we can explore an educator with Waukesha County because they have done some work in Palmyra and Fort Atkinson. There was a meeting last week. Waukesha is interested in a partnership. Wehmeier stated that Jerry Braatz and Wen are working on an agreement; contract for service. A one year contract is being looked at for a test basis. Wehmeier stated that Dodge County was going with full time CNRED educator; they are not getting that position. Wen stated that we have some good data from the visioning sessions that were already held. This is sort of the new model within the Extension.

**Item: Review of 2018 Departmental Budget**

Georgson stated that we are well within our boundaries. Discussed a savings of 8-9 months with the 4-H educator position.

**Item: Update of Jefferson County Farm Technology Days**

Georgson stated that the 16 operating committees are meeting regularly. This is a 3 year planning process for an event next July. They are in all various stages of development as they are gearing up for next year. Georgson attends as many meetings as possible to enable him to communicate information from Committee to Committee. There are many details that go into this event with deadline that need to be met. Wood County is the Farm Technology Days host this year; the show is July 10-12 (during our County Fair). Many individuals from Jefferson County will be attending. It is Jefferson County's responsibility to provide the exhibitor resting area. A few of the committees are not functioning at as high of level as we would like at this time. One of the areas where we really want to promote Jefferson County agriculture and to be able to do that well is in the collectible model. Wood County has been very inclusive; allowing us to participate in meetings, etc. Committee and County Board Committee are invited to participate. If you want to travel with us or volunteer, please check with Katelyn.

**Item: Discussion of Monthly Agent Reports**

Georgson reviewed his written report that was handed out to the Committee. There have been many horticulture questions especially tree questions. Georgson is doing a few site visits along with those questions. Office staff have been doing a good job in referring those questions to the Plant Health Advisors. Our Master Gardeners had 15 people attend a Plant Health Advisor Training in Madison. These volunteers are very engaged and very much want to learn. They are

present at activities throughout the County. They are very concerned with representing our County and our Office in a professional and positive manner.

In crop programming, we have had an abundance of rain. Prices of crops have come up a little bit. The escalating trade wars are causing concerns. Pork producers are hurting. There will be a lot of pork around which depresses prices which means less animals; circular effect. Wisconsin is a sweet spot for corn and soybean production. Our crops are looking good compared to other states. Growing degree units within the corn crop there is some variability.

Dairy farmers are in the same situation. A lot of our dairy products go to Mexico. We do have a lot of exchanges with Canada. Prices were a little hurt over issues last week. Grasslands situation. It is still happening out there. We are not the only ones. The Dairy industry is also experiencing some extreme pain.

Georgson shared that Wood County has a lot more small to medium farms. Speaking to people up there, there are dairy farms available for purchase with less people to farm them. LaVern provided an overview of the Dairy industry and what is occurring within the area. Grocery prices have been edging up. Not going back to the agriculture producers at this time. Economy is doing well except for the people at the bottom. Slight improvement for milk prices on the horizon.

Kim and Katelyn are doing an excellent job. Dustin is back this year as the Summer Intern; complimenting the work that Kim and Katelyn are doing. Preparing the 4-H program for Fair.

Kannard asked how many dairy producers have gone out of business within the last year. Georgson stated probably 5-10 farms have gone out of business; 1-2 dairies have expanded. The number of cows have been more steady. Prices and where you sell your milk is going to limit people entering farming or that may consider expanding.

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

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**Adjournment:** Motion by Kannard, seconded by Roberts, to adjourn at 9:3610 a.m. Meeting adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Note: Next scheduled meetings is Monday August 13, 2018.

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Signature of Secretary