

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 24, 2023
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114
100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

Vice-Chair Brian Holt called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll call was conducted and the following members were present: Chair Rick Stacey (Remote); Vice-Chair Brian Holt; and Citizen Members Kathleen Papcke and Jennifer Straus. Supervisor Sheila T. Reiff and Citizen Member Sharon Travis were absent. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance

County Staff: Walworth County Administrator Mark W. Lubberda; Area UW-Extension Director Christine Wen; FoodWise Program Coordinator Lisa Krolow; Horticulture Outreach Specialist Julie Hill; Human Development and Relationships Educator Amanda Kostman; Regional Dairy Educator Alison Pfau; 4-H Educator Janel Heidelmeier; and 4-H Youth Development Educator Debbie Harris.

On motion by Citizen Member Papcke, second by Citizen Member Straus, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

On motion by Citizen Member Straus, second by Citizen Member Papcke, the February 20, 2023 Agriculture & Extension Education Committee meeting minutes were approved.

Public Comment – There was none.

Unfinished Business

7a. SWOT Analysis Review as Part of the 2023 Walworth County Strategic Planning Process

Vice-Chair Holt provided an introduction to the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis review process and noted, in-depth discussion on this topic occurred amongst other committees during March's meetings. He explained, when he provided feedback during other meetings, he did take the Agriculture and Extension Education (AEE) Committee into consideration. Walworth County Administrator Mark W. Lubberda provided further elaboration and referenced his Memorandum and the existing SWOT analysis document included on Pages 3-17 of the packet. He inquired if the Committee had any additions, subtractions, expansions, etc. to the current document. Vice-Chair Holt spoke of the importance of utilizing the UW-Extension Department to its fullest potential. He also provided a brief summation of suggestions that were brought forth during last month's discussions and how they related to the AEE Committee. In addition, he noted this will be an ongoing process and either Chair Stacey or Lubberda may be contacted at any time with questions, concerns, or suggestions. Discussion followed.

New Business

8a. Regional Crop Educator vacancy update

Area UW-Extension Director Christine Wen provided an update on the vacant Regional Crop Educator position. She noted, Jefferson County had some questions which she will address at their meeting in May. Since this is a shared position between Jefferson, Rock, and Walworth County, she wants to make sure all counties are satisfied before posting the position. She provided a brief overview of the job and noted the position description is included in Pages 18-19 of the packet. Wen explained that Human Resources (HR) has all the information they need to post the position as soon as she tells them it is okay to do so. Vice-Chair Holt pointed out there are still resources available within UW-Extension to help individuals with crop questions in the meantime.

Reports

9a. 4-H and Youth Development Program Report – Janel Heidelmeier and Debbie Harris

4-H Educator Janel Heidelmeier provided an overview of three active or recently completed programs. Promotional materials for Clover University, 4-H Cultural Cooking, and Cloverbud Science Savvy Series are included in Pages 21-23 of the packet. The Committee provided positive feedback relative to the programs Heidelmeier discussed.

4-H Youth Development Educator Debbie Harris discussed outreach programming and community club programming. She highlighted: Reduced to a Pulp Presentation; Owl Encounter Science Lab; Dirty Water to Drinking Water; Ready,

Set, Dough; and Exploring Incubation, which are sub programs within the 4-H Science Labs. Harris noted she submitted for an award for the 4-H Science Lab program which has been selected for a state program development award. She further discussed: after school programs; 4-H Science Explorers efforts; the Into the Lab program; a Colors Temperament training; an interactive scavenger hunt as part of the Walworth County Youth Government Day; and 4-H Camp planning.

9b. Human Development and Relationships Report – Amanda Kostman

Human Development and Relationships Educator Amanda Kostman provided an overview of her Extension Walworth County March 2023 Highlights Report- Human Development and Relationships (Pages 24-26). She noted she was invited to a National Conference in Puerto Rico to present to an international audience on financial education. In addition, Kostman reported that state leaders will be advocating for Financial Coaching to be included within the state budget.

9c. Horticulture Outreach Specialist Report – Julie Hill

Horticulture Outreach Specialist Julie Hill reported on collaborative programming she did for Clover University. She also highlighted upcoming virtual programs (Pages 27-29) in addition to upcoming in person programming with community partners. Hill continues to answer an increasing number of gardening questions for residents. She feels the increase in questions is due to her efforts in letting the community know she is available as a resource.

9d. FoodWise Coordinator Report – Lisa Krolow

FoodWise Program Coordinator Lisa Krolow updated the Committee on recruitment efforts for two new educators. She also provided an overview of her Extension Walworth County March 2023 Highlights Report- Food Security, Healthy Eating, and Healthy Living (Page 30).

9e. Regional Dairy Educator Report – Alison Pfau

Regional Dairy Educator Alison Pfau reported on her efforts to increase local farmer participation in programming, workshops, and round table discussions. She also discussed her continued work in creating resources and providing information to Spanish speaking dairy workers. In addition, she noted her efforts to form various partnerships which would help farmers gain access to and receive education on valuable resources; provide an opportunity for Spanish speaking dairy workers to finish high school for free; address climate change and how dietary changes relative to feed would mitigate those issues; and create surveys relative to feed and investigate alternative cover crops. Pfau also discussed articles she has written to be published in newspapers and online. Discussion followed.

Chair Stacey complimented the educators on the wonderful work they do.

Reports/announcements by Chairperson – There were none.

Confirmation of next meeting date and time: The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, June 19, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion and second by Citizen Member Papcke and Citizen Member Straus, Vice-Chair Holt adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.