

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 14, 2021
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114
100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

Chair Brian Holt called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Roll call was conducted and the following members were present either in person or by remote attendance: Chair Brian Holt; Vice Chair Daniel Kilkenny; Supervisor Nancy Russell; and Citizen Members Kathleen Papcke and Jennifer Straus. FSA Representative Sharon Travis was absent. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance:

County Staff: Area UW-Extension Director Christine Wen; Horticulture Outreach Specialist Julie Hill; Agriculture Educator Jim Versweyveld; 4-H Youth Development Coordinator Janel Heidelmeier; 4-H Youth Development Educator Debbie Harris; Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator Amanda Kostman; and FoodWise Program Coordinator Lisa Krolow

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

On motion by Supervisor Russell, second by Citizen Member Straus, the April 26, 2021 Agriculture and Extension Education Committee meeting minutes were approved.

Public comment – There was none.

Reports

7a. Plan of Work Overview

Area Director Chrissy Wen explained reporting this month will be spent highlighting the educators' plan of work. These draft plans, which will tie in to state wide efforts, are used as a guide to determine programming and identify unmet needs in the community.

7b. FoodWise Program Coordinator Report

FoodWise Program Coordinator Lisa Krolow explained, FoodWise is the educational component of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP,) which is a federally funded program. The budget is shared with Jefferson County, but right now 90% of the work is done in Walworth County. She stated her plan of work is done in the form of a needs assessment performed every 3 years, this year being an assessment year. Information was gathered from various data sources, feedback from residents, and statistical information to determine the needs of the county. Krolow also highlighted the various community partners they use to administer programs and reach target audience individuals. Future programming plans include; participating at local farmers markets, implementing a community garden, and continued educational programs with current community partners.

7c. Horticulture Outreach Specialist Report

Horticulture Outreach Specialist Julie Hill focused discussion on her individual plan of work as it aligns with her state and horticulture plan of work. Her plan will address environmental challenges Wisconsin faces along with activities to support the local Master Gardener Program. Hill highlighted ways in which environmentally sound horticultural practices are supported. Those methods involve educating the public directly, professional development for volunteers, and diagnostic services. Efforts are being made to not only reach the typical target audience but also reach new and historically unrepresented audiences. Hill also discussed key activities for the Master Gardener Program which include; annual review of volunteers, providing local support for new volunteers, recognizing efforts, continued education, and project

coordination. Evaluation is another component of the plan of work which is achieved through thoughtful program planning and creating clear goals.

7d. Agriculture Educator Report

Agriculture Educator Jim Versweyveld provided explanation to the education structure at the county level and the state level. He explained, agriculture educators at the county level are generalists whereas educators at the state level have a primary and secondary specialties within four program teams. His plan of work is built on three work groups pertaining to his specialties, which is what he focuses on for state level programming. Versweyveld provided an overview of his work within those groups. His programming focuses mainly on farm people as it relates to leadership development, employee success, farm families and the safety and wellness challenges they face. Discussion followed.

7e. 4-H Program Educator Report

4-H Youth Development Educator Debbie Harris began by explaining, her plan of work and 4-H Youth Development Coordinator Janel Heidelmeier's plan of work are different in their focuses but complement each other by tying in individual efforts to achieve specific goals. Heidelmeier highlighted the 4-H mission and volunteerism within the program. She discussed the importance of volunteers and the qualifications and training process required of their volunteers. Heidelmeier's plan of work focuses specifically on youth leadership development. Her target audience is all Walworth County 4-H members of any age. Through her plan of work, Heidelmeier's focus is to increase peer to peer confidence, provide volunteer training to support youth in leadership roles, and offer different level youth and adult partnership support through shared training.

7f. 4-H Educator Report

Harris discussed her declared faculty area of focus, which is expanding youth access and outreach through science and agriculture and provided an overview of her reasons in choosing this area of focus. Harris explained her plan of work outlines outreach and 4-H community club efforts designed to bolster youth science and agriculture knowledge, awareness of careers and post-secondary options, and life skills for post-secondary success. She highlighted programs included in her plan of work and described the purposes behind the choice in programming. She also discussed future programs she hopes to implement. Discussion followed.

7g. Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator Report

Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator Amanda Kostman stated her plan of work focuses on strengthening individual and family financial well-being. This is achieved by educating individuals directly, along with educating professionals who work with those in need of financial help. In order to effectively reach her target audience, Kostman partners with organizations in an effort to bring resources and education to the individual. Some face obstacles, like lack of transportation, which make it difficult to travel to participate in the programming. She highlighted various workshops and programs offered now and in the future. Kostman also shared positive survey results from participants in which they report the programs were helpful and applicable to their situation. She also noted other groups or programs they partner with to reach people in an indirect way. In addition, Kostman discussed ways in which she collaborates with other counties.

Reports/announcements by Chairperson- There were none.

Confirmation of next meeting: The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, September 20, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Citizen Member Papcke, second by Supervisor Russell, Chair Holt adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Submitted by Lindsey Ross, Administrative Assistant. Meeting minutes were approved by the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee at the September 20, 2021 meeting.