

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors  
Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, June 19, 2023  
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114  
100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

---

Chair Rick Stacey called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

**Others in Attendance**

County Staff: Walworth County Administrator Mark W. Luberda; Area UW-Extension Director Christine Wen; Horticulture Outreach Specialist Julie Hill; Human Development and Relationships Educator Amanda Kostman; 4-H Educator Janel Heidelmeier; and 4-H Youth Development Educator Debbie Harris.

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

**On motion by Supervisor Reiff, second by Citizen Member Papcke, the April 24, 2023 Agriculture & Extension Education Committee meeting minutes were approved.**

**Public Comment** – There was none.

**New Business**

**7a. Extension Strategic Planning Progress Report**

Area UW-Extension Director Christine Wen explained, the Extension Strategic Planning Progress report included on Pages 3-6 of the packet details strategic issues facing UW-Extension. The next step in the process is implementation which will be conducted by teams assigned to develop a plan to address the issues outlined in this report. Wen noted, any feedback from the Committee relative to this plan may be provided directly to her, or Committee Members may follow the survey link which was included in an email sent to them prior to today's meeting.

**7b. Announcing a new hire, Priscilla Gonzalez, FoodWise Educator for Walworth and Jefferson Counties**

Wen introduced Pricilla Gonzalez as the new full time bilingual FoodWise Educator. She reminded the Committee, this position is shared between Walworth County and Jefferson County. Walworth County's program has been implemented for many years and provides nutrition education in schools, senior centers, and other community organizations, with 50% or more of their audience fitting within the low income population. Chair Stacey welcomed Gonzalez on behalf of the Committee.

**7c. Regional Crop Educator hiring update**

Wen provided an update on the hiring process for the Regional Crop Educator position; noting interviews are scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>. She also gave an overview of the interview team, which will include Vice-Chair Holt. Wen anticipates the interview and hiring process will be concluded by mid-July.

**Reports**

**8a. 4-H and Youth Development Program Report – Janel Heidelmeier and Debbie Harris**

4-H Educator Janel Heidelmeier reported, the Cloverbud Science Savvy series and the Cultural Cooking series have concluded. Due to the success of both series, Heidelmeier will be offering two more series this summer, which is not typically offered. Topics for each series will be teen baking and woodworking. She also provided an overview of the New Family 4-H Summer Check-in she hosted. In addition, Heidelmeier noted an increase in state participation by Walworth County 4-H members, which had previously decreased due to COVID.

4-H Youth Development Educator Debbie Harris discussed the Clover University series which was put together in partnership with Heidelmeier. She also reported on upcoming outreach programming for 4-H Science Explorers; Into the Lab and Night at the Museum. Additionally, Harris noted upcoming collaborations with Heidelmeier for a 4-H day camp in July with a Route 66 theme, and their preparations for 4-H camp which will have 139 participants.

**8b. Human Development and Relationships Report – Amanda Kostman**

Human Development and Relationships Educator Amanda Kostman gave an overview of her Human Development and Relationships report and program fliers (Pages 11-13). She highlighted her work on a Planning Ahead program which helps individuals understand how to make end-of-life financial, healthcare, and final wishes decisions. She also discussed the Independent Living program which assists kids who are placed outside the home through social services and cover topics like: healthy eating; legal obligations as adults; buying and maintaining a vehicle; and bringing them to community resources to familiarize them with the location and the staff at those facilities. Kostman also discussed the upcoming Rent Smart Train the Trainer program and Encouraging Financial Conversations booster session. Citizen Member Straus thanked Kostman and her team for these programs, as she sees how this benefits students.

**8c. Horticulture Outreach Specialist Report – Julie Hill**

Horticulture Outreach Specialist Julie Hill discussed Pollinator Week and provided an overview of the programs and resources she helps facilitate, listed in her Horticulture report (Pages 14-17). She also reported she will be co-hosting a program in partnership with Kettle Moraine Land Trust (KMLT), “Strategies for Lake Friendly Lawn Care.” Hill continues to answer gardening questionings from residents, most commonly regarding spongy moths. Master Gardeners have also been answering questions at the Lake Geneva Farmers Market and they will also be in attendance at the Walworth County Fair.

**8d. FoodWise Coordinator Report – Lisa Krolow**

Wen explained, FoodWise Coordinator Lisa Krolow was not able to be present for the meeting. Krolow’s Food Security, Healthy Eating, and Healthy Living report can be found on Page 18 of the packet.

**8e. Regional Dairy Educator Report – Alison Pfau**

Wen reported, Regional Dairy Educator Alison Pfau was not able to be present for the meeting. Pfau’s Agriculture report can be found on Page 19 of the packet. The Committee viewed an educational video which is the first in a series Pfau has been creating.

**Reports/announcements by Chairperson** – There were none.

**Confirmation of next meeting date and time:** The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, September 18, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

**On motion and second by Supervisor Reiff and Citizen Member Papcke, Chair Stacey adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.**