

**Green County
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
February 1, 2023
MINUTES**

The February 1, 2023, meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 8:33am by Extension Green County Ag and Extension Chair, Sue Nelson.

Members present were: Sue Nelson, Kathy Pennington, Dawn Sass, and Jerry Guth. Peg Sheaffer was excused. Also present—Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager, Lynn Perkins, Area Extension Director, Jackie McCarville, Dairy Agriculture Educator, Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator, and Joshua Kamps, Crops & Soils Agriculture Educator.

Green County Educator Reports--Written Report for Educators

Nelson asked for any changes or questions regarding the written report for educators.

Presentations:

Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator presented on the “Helping Youth Thrive – 4-H Thriving Model” survey completed by Green County 4-H youth 13-years old plus. This evaluation gauges youth sparks, belonging, working with caring adults, challenging growth, youth-adult partnerships and overall program score. Green County ranks as a “high quality” program, which means our youth are expected to have positive developmental outcomes and long-term outlooks based on their participation in Green County 4-H. This is the 3rd year this evaluation was completed and this year, there was a 27% response rate. Data this year shows male vs female fell lower in “sparks” meaning more opportunities may need to be offered for males. Our program is driven by active involved volunteers. Volunteer numbers have steadily decreased over the years, however, there are more risk protection, youth protection, and mental health requirements for volunteers to complete. Finding that combination for youth protection and volunteerism is being reviewed constantly by UW-Madison Extension. Andrews further noted this year, we have 135 – 1st year members, 181 – First Generation Members (meaning their parents were not 4-H members growing up) and we have a retention rate of 77.4%. Jerry Guth asked if reductions in membership is related to declining school enrollments. Andrews felt that was a contributing factor, as well as more competition with sports and other opportunities youth are engaged in. Andrews also briefly discussed an Americorp Grant opportunity for hiring an intern type position to help serve/expand our 4-H program. Follow up will continue.

Minutes Approval – Guth moved, Sass seconded to approve the January meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Bill Approval – The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for January 2023. Pennington moved to approve the January EFT payments totaling \$58.61 and the January check payments totaling \$658.25. Sass second. Motion passed.

Memorandum of Understanding for Community Health Care Worker --G Waar

Butts presented G Waar documents for signatures and Perkins discussed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Community Health Care Worker-G Waar, noting it had been modified by University of Wisconsin Madison to include an addendum. Guth noted the position appears to be funded for up to two years, however, the MOU must be renewed after the first year. Nelson signed the document and Perkins will present at Lafayette County for signatures and return a fully signed copy to us.

Out of County Travel—

Butts noted Solomon has been enrolled in the National Extension Leadership Development (NELD) and Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) conferences and will be traveling to the following locations on the dates shown. Pursuant to County Code 1-9-8-A9, we are seeking approval for the travel, with no anticipated costs for the county.

NELD - In person Session 1 in San Antonio, TX March 6-9, 2023

PILD – In person Arlington, VA – April 16-19, 2023

NELD – In person Session 2, in Denver, CO – June 12-15, 2023

NELD – in person, Session 3, in Washington, DC – Sept 18-22, 2023

Guth moved to approve and Pennington second. Motion passed. Butts will make sure this is added to the February Personnel & Labor agenda.

Area Extension Director Updates

Perkins noted she was glad to be in attendance in person and the group was pleased to see her.

Staffing Update—Iowa County 4-H Educator—Perkins noted she is pleased there were 16 applicants for the 4-H Educator position. Screenings are being completed, next will be preliminary zoom interviews and then in person county interview selections with hopes of the position being filled by March 1.

Office Manager Updates

UW-Extension Annual Report--Butts presented the Draft UW-Extension Annual Report and noted changes to the layout formats. Victoria Solomon & Bridget Mouchon will be presenting to the County Board on March 14, 2023. Hard copies of the report will be distributed in February for the presentation in March.

County Staff Evaluation Plans--

Butts noted next month will include county employee evaluations and advised an online form will be sent to fill out.

Other Business –

Nelson asked McCarville/Butts about Clean Sweep updates. McCarville noted we will be following up with Matthew Caufmann of the Landfill in late February or early March to turn things over.

Josh Kamps gave a brief overview of his activities listed on the written report, highlighting the Palmer Amaranth and Johnson Grass identification procedures. He noted understanding the herbicide content can help to determine if the weed is spread via seed or root. Kamps also praised the Land & Water Department for their work with the Lower Sugar River Watershed group.

McCarville discussed a needs assessment being done by the Area 17 Regional Agricultural Educators throughout the counties of Grant, Green, Iowa, and Lafayette for future programming plans. It started with live phone calls or physical visits to producers regarding designated questions in the farm aspects of Dairy, Livestock and Crops/Soils. Next will be focus groups, formed by each educator for each topic, example McCarville will have Producers/Businesses/Industry Specialists relating to Dairy from all four counties who will come together to be on a panel discussion via Zoom. Again, specific questions are being formulated for their responses. Each educator will have their groups and Zoom focus meetings planned in February. After the meetings are completed and summarized, details will be shared with the counties.

Butts discussed new UW-Extension signage that has been ordered since June 2022. After several follow ups, signage should be installed by next month's meeting. Butts will continue to follow up.

The next meeting will be March 1, 2023, at 8:30am.

Motion by Guth, second by Sass to adjourn at 9:38 am. Motion carried.