

**Green County
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
February 2, 2022 MINUTES**

The February 2, 2022, meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 12:30 PM by Extension Green County Ag and Extension Vice-Chair, Oscar Olson.

Members present were: Sue Nelson(z), Oscar Olson, Dawn Sass, and Art Carter. Erica Roth was absent. Also present—Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager, Lynn Perkins, Area Extension Director, Jackie McCarville, Agriculture Educator, Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Victoria Solomon, Community Resource Development Educator, Bridget Mouchon, Health & Well Being Educator and Lana Heins(z), Extension Activity Assistant. (Note: (z) members/attendees were present via Zoom).

Green County Educator Reports—

Written Report for Educators

Olson asked if there were any comments for written reports and the following questions were asked:

- Andrews noted if any questions on her written report, happy to answer. She further noted 4-H enrollments are slowly climbing up.
- In Jackie's report, Carter asked about the Badger Dairy Insights and what topics have been covered. Jackie responded with details and noted 60+ participants at the first one.
- Olson asked about a farmer who needs information about planting info, fertilizer, lime info, and Potash info, etc. Jackie noted this type of question would be answered by the Crop Ag Specialist, Josh Kamps.
- Carter asked about the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation donations. Andrews explained the 4-H Foundation is separate from Extension. The funds are used for a wide variety of things including 4-H promotion, trips, and some scholarships.
- In addition, a written report was presented for Joe Bonnell, Water Quality Specialist.

Victoria Solomon, Community Resource Development Educator

Solomon reported:

- Civil Leadership is going well and people are finding common ground. Solomon is receiving requests nationwide on comments about the program. Several graduates in this program are Green County people
- Diverse Workforce – Solomon reported a graduate from last year's program and Elevando is starting a Spanish child care business. Solomon has been involved to make sure she has the appropriate resource connections for the business startup.
- SWCAP Board- Solomon noted they will host refugee camps.
- Helping with organizational development with Home of Our Own and the Green County Multi-Cultural Outreach.
- YMCA –wrote a support letter for a grant that generated 1.37 million in funds, some of which will be used for child care set up.
- ARPA –Discussed receiving 17 candidate applications for the AdHoc Committee that were reviewed by the Finance Committee last night. Solomon will be reaching out to candidates to confirm participation.
- Local Government/WCA doing a survey on "women in local government".

- Annual Water Testing- Sent letters to the Towns of Albany, Brooklyn, Exeter, & Mt Pleasant about participating.
- Water Trends Update—Entering year three of the Water Trends Program. Data will be presented to the County Board at the June 2022 meeting.

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

Bill Approval --The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for January 2022. Sass moved to approve the January EFT payments totaling \$194.52 and the January check payments totaling \$1,360.67. Carter second. Motion passed.

Discussion and Possible Action on Agriculture Education Staffing Plan

Perkins presented a Regional Agriculture Educator Staffing Model based on research she completed for our four counties. Some key points were Agriculture groups and producers have indicated the need for the Division of Extension to provide specialized service with greater efficiency and the impact to remain relevant with today's Agriculture industry. The staffing plan includes three specific areas of expertise:

- Jackie McCarville – Dairy Production
- Amanda Cauffman – Livestock Production
- Josh Kamps – Crops & Soils Production

In addition, producers and clientele have access to educational resources that will be created by statewide Outreach Specialists in the areas of Farm Business Management, Horticulture, Emerging Crops, Beef Production, Swine Production, and Agriculture Water Quality. There is no cost to counties for these areas. Regional Agriculture Educators maintain a home county office base and continue to utilize county support to provide service to constituents.

Costs to counties include technology provided by home base county. Mileage will be shared equally by counties, with Iowa County serving as administrator. Each county will contribute a lump sum estimated at \$1,000 per county. A flat fee for each Regional Agricultural Educator will be split by the four counties. In 2022 the educator cost is \$43,600 x 3 educators divided by 4 counties equals \$32,700. Professional development

training/conferences/workshops/etc. will be paid by Division of Extension. Perkins stated her budget allows for cell phones to be purchased for each Ag Educator as well. Perkins noted she will be responsible for supervision and support of Regional Educators, by developing benchmarks of success and provide regular reporting to the Ag & Extension Committees.

Feedback will include County Ag & Extension Committees, producers, industry, and commodity organizations. Perkins recommended a 3-year commitment to allow a new model to see full implementation. Perkins further noted any concerns should be relayed to her immediately to allow for future improvement of the regionalization.

Carter questioned division of time to be fair to all four counties and asked if the specialization will be stronger in their home county. Perkins noted that will need to be figured out. Olson questioned timeliness of responding to clientele—McCarville replied there will be no problem in doing this. Questions were asked about mileage including where/when start and stop points are and providing detailed information for the mileage paid. Butts felt \$1,000 was high to contribute up front, and based on budgeted figures wanted to be fair to the other in-county educators. Additional discussion resulted and Sass moved to approve the Regional Agriculture Staffing Model, however, reducing the mileage expense to \$500 instead of \$1,000. Carter seconded. Motion passed.

Area Extension Director Updates

Health & Well Being Position- Perkins introduced Bridget Mouchon as the new Health & Well Being Educator. Mouchon discussed she has been on the radio and has a couple of events scheduled. Working with Green County Law Enforcement, NAMI, and having discussions with the Monroe School District.

Other Position Updates

Perkins advised Jessa Engelken, the new FoodWise Coordinator, will be coming next month to the Ag & Extension meeting. Perkins also noted the Lafayette County 4-H Educator is retiring, however, agreed to stay on part-time while the position is being filled.

Office Manager Updates

Green County Extension Annual Report- Butts discussed the Annual Report and noted it would be presented at the March County Board meeting. Committee members were pleased with the report and look forward to the presentation.

Master Gardener Program Updates - Butts noted we are waiting on further information regarding the changes for the Master Gardener program. At this time, it is unknown how the group will proceed and therefore, no details for insurance can be made. Continued follow up will be done.

Performance Evaluations— The Ag & Extension Committee proceeded in open session. Carter moved to accept the evaluations as presented and Sass seconded. Motion passed.

Other Business Topics

No other information was presented.

The next meeting will be March 2, 2022, at 12:30pm.

Motion by Carter, second by Sass to adjourn at 1:53 pm. Motion carried.