

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

The March 1, 2023, meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 8:31am 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 absent. 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, Bridget Mouchon, Health & Well Being Educator, and Cristy Alverado, Community Health Care Worker.

Green County Educator Reports--Written Report for Educators

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

Kathy Pennington discussed her recent opportunity to interact for the 4-H Scholarship process and how rewarding the experience was. She discussed how well the process was laid out, how wonderful it was to meet the youth, and encouraged other supervisors to take advantage of this opportunity if it becomes available.

Bridget Mouchon & Cristy Alverado left the meeting to attend a class "Care & Transition". The program provides information on how to handle leaving a health care setting. Cristy has been able to offer assistance with Spanish speaking situations that is making a difference already. Evidence has proven in care and home visits help to assist during the transition to keep them healing outside of the hospital.

Maggie Milcarek, FoodWise Coordinator was attending a training regarding the Federal SNAP Changes.

Presentations:

Jackie McCarville, Dairy Agriculture Educator presented on "Feed Efficiency in Cattle". Currently, feed is the #1 expense being incurred by farmers. With land prices rising, the cost of raising/harvesting crops is high. Farmers are working on resources to be more efficient for increasing production with fewer resources, basically improving environmental footprints in farming, selecting the right bulls, etc. With the projected increase in populations of people, making more mouths to feed, being efficient is important to meet the needs. McCarville discussed being very busy working on the Dairy Focus Group for the needs assessment. Some of the highlights were the desire for more webinars for meetings vs live attendance. McCarville continues to strive to meet the needs of her clientele and felt the recent focus group stimulated great conversation. McCarville also presented a flier on her upcoming "I'm a Farmer Too" program being held March 21, 2023.

Minutes Approval – Sass moved, Pennington seconded to approve the March meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Bill Approval – The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for February 2023. Guth moved to approve the February EFT payments totaling \$76.64 and the February check payments totaling \$1420.43, noting to pay the Ricoh bill if it has a small difference do to structure pricing changes. Sass second. Motion passed.

Additional Bill Notes—to have in minutes structure—

Update on January Bills from \$658.25 to \$663.74—diff \$5.49 (due to change in copies cost by supplier Ricoh. Contract ran out, therefore, billing at higher level. *(B&W were .0058/page, now .00621/page; Color were .05/page, now .0535/page)*)

Additional Update on January Bills – UW Stevens Point sent final bill for Water Trends program-- \$1,151.63, therefore to get into 2022 business, did an email approval by 2 board members.

Discussion and Possible Action on 4-H AmeriCorps Grant Program

Ellen Andrews discussed the need to reach youth to keep engaging in the 4-H Program. Recently the state has created a partnership with the AmeriCorps for increasing engagement through afterschool programs, project based or different cultures. With Educators being at full capacity teaching wise, the opportunity is being presented to hire an additional office person for program creations with guidance from Andrews. An application has been submitted to apply for a summer intern, similar to the intern position we currently have. Cost to the County would be \$1,250, with the remaining costs funded by the State. The County may also need to pay mileage In some cases, details are still be worked out. State payout for living expenses, etc. would be \$5,000. Possible engagement may include working with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boy/Girl Scouts, YMCA, and Park & Rec Departments. This position would become available in 2024. More details to follow.

Guth asked if engagement is down due to school enrollments being down. Andrews said concrete statistics are not yet available on this, but certainly could be an issue.

Pennington discussed her children's experiences with Ameri-Corp for Habitat for Humanity.

Area Extension Director Updates

Staffing Update

- **Iowa County 4-H Educator**—Perkins noted hoping to make an offer for this position soon.
- **Lafayette County**—working on a new support staff person—approximately 24 hours.

Professional Fund Balances—

Currently have a balance of approximately \$4,140.31 for use of professional funds. Perkins noted the state is hoping to deplete these funds and then fund Professional Development from the state.

Office Manager Updates

Tractor Safety First Aid Kits--Butts contacted Dustin Williams at Blackhawk Technical College regarding the Tractor Safety Program questioning if we should plan to purchase First Aid Kits for graduates. Williams noted he caps participants at 20 and is anticipating a full class again this year. The committee agreed to purchase the kits again to use our funds.

Master Gardener Symposium

Butts presented brochures for the Green County Master Gardener Symposium to be held on March 25 at the Maple Leave Event Center.

Thunderbridge Signage

Butts requested approval to make an offer to Thunderbridge for ½ the signage cost due to the numerous delays/opportunities with our signage. The committee agreed with that offer. Butts will follow up.

Closed Session—Chair Nelson read the Statement of Reason for Closed Session—Staff Evaluations per Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c)—Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Sass moved to go to closed session, Pennington second. Motion passed unanimously. The committee entered closed session at 9:15am.

Open Session – Sass moved to reconvene in open session immediately following the closed session, Nelson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The committee returned to open session at 10:20 am.

No action was taken on items discussed in closed session.

Other Business –

Butts questioned if a future agenda should include reviewing the “regional agriculture model” now in place with UW-Madison Extension. To allow details to be summarized from the recent agriculture focus groups, it was suggested to place this on the May agenda.

The next meeting will be April 5, 2023 at 8:30am.

Motion by Sass, second by Nelson to adjourn at 10:30 am. Motion carried.