

**Green County  
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee  
April 5, 2023 MINUTES**

The April 5, 2023, meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 8:30am by Extension Green County Ag and Extension Chair, Sue Nelson.

Members present were: Sue Nelson, Kathy Pennington, Peg Sheaffer, and Jerry Guth. Dawn Sass 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, and Victoria Solomon, Community Resource Development Educator.

**Green County Educator Reports--Written Report for Educators**

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

McCarville noted the last line of her report should have included 25 Green County youth and 66 Iowa County were trained on YQCA. It was further noted online training is more age/grade depictive, while in-person training is more general for all grades/ages.

Perkins noted Maggie Milcarek secured a \$1,900 grant from FoodWise funds to aid in developing raised garden beds for Family Promise of Green County. Maggie & Kathy are meeting with ADRC and planning three nutritional events this summer. More details will follow later.

**Presentation-Victoria Solomon, Green County Community Resource Development Educator**

discussed the Annual Water Testing Program that was just completed yesterday. Each year a 4-county region is selected for testing. This year included the townships participating in the south quadron were Decatur, Spring Grove, and Sylvester. 56-people submitted samples for testing and none of these samples were positive for the E-Coli Bacteria.

Solomon also discussed the Water Trends Program currently heading into the 5<sup>th</sup> and final year of this program. Preliminary maps have been shared by the UW-Stevens Point Water Lab, specifically Kevin Masarik. Ground water data is now showing information that will be shared at the June 2023 County Board meeting. Solomon questioned if she should be requesting a meeting of the original four departments (Land & Water, Zoning, Health, and Extension) for future plans. The original Water Trends program was implemented as a result of the Livestock Facility Study done in 2018. (This report can be found on the Green County UW-Extension website.) To reiterate, recommendations to pursue further research on water quality resulted from this study. Discussion was made to request results on the other proposals that resulted from the Livestock Facility Plan and determine what was done on those plans. Solomon will draft emails to the various departments to get information with plans to set a meeting in late June to allow for presentation at the July County Board meeting with recommendations to proceed with more trends testing or to abandon the program. Estimated cost of the program is expected to be around \$25,000 per year. The current time frame was set to allow budgeting if needed that will impact the 2024 budget. It was further determined a “gap” in the testing would be detrimental to the overall program and therefore, hopefully a combined decision can be made. Solomon will follow up.

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

**Bill Approval** – The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for March 2023. Guth moved to approve the March EFT payments totaling \$320.80 and the March check payments totaling \$2343.46, Sheaffer second. Motion passed.

**Area Extension Director Updates**

**Area 17 Staffing Update** – Perkins noted we are fully staffed, 16 educators across 4 counties.

- **Iowa County 4-H Educator**—Perkins noted hired Dan Brandt.
- **Lafayette County**—New support staff person hired—Brandi Crist.

**Communication Ideas & Updates** – Perkins questioned ways for Extension communication to happen; ways to tell our story, instead of being the “best kept secret”. Discussion resulted to request the written educator reports be posted online as a way to “tell our story” more. This would be a good way for people to review more of what UW-Extension Green County is involved in. Butts also noted we are unique with our Annual Report and the written educator reports to keep our committee informed and it has worked out well.

**Office Manager Updates**

**County Activity Assistant Position**--Butts noted Katie Thurow left the County employment and therefore the process of replacing her has begun. Applications have been reviewed and three interviews have been scheduled.

**Active Shooter Training-** Butts noted an Active Shooter Training is being done by the Green County Sheriff's Department this afternoon.

**Other Business** –

Nelson discussed being on a steering committee with the Wisconsin Counties Association for county input to UW-Extension.

Guth questioned the review process for educators—Perkins noted she is required to do an annual and bi-annual review with goals and criteria of the position being discussed. Guth would like to see a 360 process back in place to give educators feedback from their constituents, peers and the committee. Perkins will research and provide feedback at the next meeting. Butts questioned if this could be one of the items Nelson brings up with the Extension steering committee.

Butts noted the UW-Extension website is undergoing changes and therefore at times, it may be a “work in progress” situation...

The next meeting will be May 3, 2023 at 8:30am.

Motion by Sheaffer, second by Guth to adjourn at 9:44 am. Motion carried.