

**Green County
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
June 1, 2022 MINUTES**

The June 1, 2022, meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 8:32am by Extension Green County Ag and Extension Chair, Sue Nelson.

Members present were: Sue Nelson, Dawn Sass, Kathy Pennington, Peg Sheaffer, and Jerry Guth. Also present—Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager, Lynn Perkins, Area Extension Director, Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Bridget Mouchon, Health & Well Being Educator, Jessa Engelken, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator, and Joe Bonnell, Regional Water Specialist.

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

Nelson asked if there were any comments/questions for the written reports.

- Jerry Guth thanked Victoria for her role in ARPA Adhoc Committee startup.
- Ellen Andrews passed a poster around for the upcoming 4-H Performing Arts Talent Show being held in Twining Park.
- Sue Nelson commented on the photo regarding Tractor Safety and the Extension donation.
- Sue Nelson also commented on Latinx Communities state wide.

Jessa Engelken, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator discussed her position, which includes the four-county regions of Grant, Green, Iowa, and Lafayette. Jessa is federally funded and works with Snap-Ed Funds. Snap Ed Funds have requirements of ½ eligible for food share, 50% free or reduced lunches, or low-income housing sites. Jessa's work includes working with low income groups such as Head Start, Food Pantries, etc. She is working with the Juda Elementary Grades 2 & 4 with some nutrition education also. She is interviewing to hire an educator (3 applicants) who can share some of the duties. Jessa is also working on the fiscal budget for the FoodWise program.

Questions for Jessa from the board notes-

- Kathy Pennington asked about bridging gaps while school is out—Jessa noted she works then with Farmer's Markets and those using SnapEd Cards.
- Peg Sheaffer asked if this was a new position—Jessa replied formerly filled by Donna Peterson.
- Jerry Guth asked about managing the 4-counties and time management.

Minutes Approval – Sass moved, Sheaffer seconded to approve the May meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Bill Approval – The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for May 2022. Sass moved to approve the May EFT payments totaling \$288.85 and the May check payments totaling \$67,855.81 (amount corrected on bill listing at meeting to equal total bills). Guth second. Motion passed.

Victoria's Out-of-State Travel – Victoria was invited to attend the 2022 National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) Conference, being held June 5-7 in Indianapolis, IN and present on "*Civil Leadership for Vibrant Communities: A Partnership for Seeking Common Ground*", stemming from the Green County Leaders program held last year. As per county code, no expenses will be incurred by the County and her Institute will cover the costs. Sass moved to approve the travel and Nelson second. Butts will make sure to have this added to the Personnel & Labor agenda for retroactive approval.

Clean Sweep Program Updates – Butts reached out to Rich Vogel about the Clean Sweep program. Rich is hopeful the landfill position will be filled by June 30. The 2023 grant has been filed with the intent to return to the permanent site in 2023, similar to the past. Discussion also was made

regarding a one-day collection spearheaded by Veolia Service. Veolia would be willing to provide staff for services and work along side the new person, helping them learn what would be expected in the future for collections. Rich was taking this information to his committee and will report back to us. In addition, we would need to contact Wisconsin Department of Consumer Trade and Protection (DATCP) to ensure changing the contract from being open 6 months to a one-days site and review grant information to accommodate this. Follow up will continue with Rich.

Area Extension Director Updates

- Perkins discussed the **FoodWise Annual Agreement** to be signed and returned by October 1, 2022. She noted \$162,658 in federal funds pays for employees, benefits, and program expenses for the nutrition educational providers. Jerry will sign as the County Board chair. Sass moved to approve the agreement and Nelson second. Motion passed.
- Joe Bonnell, Regional Natural Resource Educator, gave an introduction and update on his position. Joe noted there are 7 people around the state covering 3+ counties each. His position is funded by the DNR. His primary focus is water related issues and he connects Land & Water Conservation Departments with farmers & watershed groups. Joe provides assistance and information to identify areas where research can implement change. Data layers exist and can be updated from local conservation offices. Results model and confirm “on the ground” needed changes. Joe has met with the Sugar River Water Shed and helped them determine their focus is more educational. He’s also working with Grant County on a Farmer led group to share lessons learned. Joe was asked to be the Interim Director for the North Central Region Water Network that involves approximately 12 states. He will facilitate land grant information for universities, including related property research on water changes. Fifty percent of Joe’s time is being allocated this this interim director position. Joe also fielded questions regarding County input on issues, PFAS chemicals, Great Lakes water diversions to ship elsewhere. Sue questioned a referendum being done in the fall asking legislators to purse good water quality in Green County.

Office Manager Updates – Butts noted the First Aid Kits were purchased using **Tractor Safety Funds** and awarded to the Tractor Safety graduates. Twenty youth completed the program coordinated by Dustin Williams, Farm Management and Agri-Business Instructor at Blackhawk Technical College. A photo and press release are pending print at this time.

Summer Intern/Summer Assistant Updates – Butts noted a college student, Sydney Delzer, has been hired to be our college Summer Intern. Sydney will be responsible for some of our larger projects such as Master Showman, Premier Exhibitor, and Herdsmanship events. Our Summer Assistant is a Junior at Monroe High School, Brenna Aebly. Brenna will be working for approximately 6-8 weeks to help with any office projects during the busy season. We look forward to welcoming both girls soon.

Extension Activity Assistant – Butts noted advertisements were done and postings made for the vacancy created when Lana Heins left. Eleven applicants applied and four are being interviewed for the position. Butts has been working closely with Ellen Andrews, she will be a large part of Ellen’s support. Follow up will continue as interviews are done.

Other Business – No other business was presented at this time.

The next meeting will be July 5, 2022, at 8:30am, however may be cancelled if there is a lack of business. Notification will be given two weeks ahead if the meeting is cancelled.

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