

Green County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee October 4, 2023 MINUTES

The October 4, 2023, meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 8:32 am by Extension Green County Ag and Extension Chair, Sue Nelson.

Members present were: Sue Nelson, Jerry Guth, Kathy Pennington and Peg Sheaffer. Dawn Sass was excused. Also present—Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager; Jackie McCarville, Agriculture Educator, Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator, and Victoria Solomon, Community Development Educator. Lynn Perkins, Area Extension Director was absent.

Green County Educator Reports--Written Report for Educators – Nelson asked for comments or questions on the written reports. Nelson commented she appreciated the link to Jackie's video included in the report. Nelson also asked for times, etc. when other radio reports are on the air. Guth expressed appreciation for the 4-H record book details presented by Andrews.

Presentation- Victoria Solomon, Community Development Educator

Solomon noted she is celebrating her 10-year anniversary with Extension Green County this year. In light of that, Victoria presented a 2014 needs assessment, highlighting program priorities at that time. To follow up from that assessment, Solomon created and did a needs assessment in August 2023 that was sent to 88 community leaders (not including Extension colleagues) and highlighted results for key program areas. A 52% response rate was recorded with these priorities:

- Building a leadership pipeline and leadership networks
- Education for local government officials.
- Groundwater quality education.

In addition, when asked or requested, Solomon continues to provide facilitation of strategic plans, education on housing, placemaking (creating places where people want to live, work and play), Increase understanding of Green County demographic trends, community economic development education, education on energy independence, education on deliberative dialogue, diversity, equity, and inclusivity education, strengthening Green County non-profits through board training, and waste management education. Sheaffer noted she was pleased to see the importance of Energy Independence, as she feels this will be a future movement.

Sheaffer questioned Ag Consolidation conversations in the future in Green County. Discussions talked about changes rapidly happening with fewer farms and the impact to communities and the county.

The board agreed with Solomon's analysis, therefore, she will proceed in the categories discussed.

Minutes Approval –

Guth moved to approve the August 16, 2023, Ag & Extension committee meeting minutes (no meeting, no quorum) and Sheaffer seconded. Motion passed.

Guth moved to approve the September 6, 2023, Ag & Extension committee meeting minutes and Pennington seconded. Motion passed.

Bill Approval – The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for September 2023. Shaeffer moved to approve the September EFT: \$262.98 and the September Check Payments: \$16,737.98, second by Pennington. Motion passed.

Area Extension Director Updates (by Victoria Solomon)

Area 17 Staffing Update

- **Iowa County Health & Well-Being Educator**—Position reposted—will close Oct 15.
- **Regional Livestock Agriculture Educator**-- position is being reposted and will hopefully close October 23. Follow up will continue.

- **Regional Crops & Soils Ag Educator** – Position description is being approved before it can be posted. Hopefully posting next week. Perkins will follow up.
- **Educator Contract Timeline**—The University of Wisconsin Madison-Division of Extension is working on the 71 state-wide county contracts and hopes to have them to counties within the next two weeks, therefore allowing for Corp Counsel to review it before presentation to our committee for approval in November.

Office Manager Updates – Clean Sweep—McCarville/Butts noted they met with Todd Jenson, Land & Water County Conservationist, and all paperwork and files have been emailed to Todd Jenson for future use. Next year's grant paperwork and the closing of this year's paperwork have been filed with DATCP. Butts has filed the 2024 Budget and shared that with Todd also. Extension will now. The committee appreciates the hard work of Jayne and Jackie during the period of transition.

Educator Invoice – 2nd Half 2023—Butts noted the invoice has not been received and will be reviewed thoroughly, as we have large credits coming for open educator positions. Follow up will continue with payment to be made before year end.

Discuss Progression of 2024 Budgets for Tractor Safety, Clean Sweep, Fair, Pesticide Applicator Training, 4-H Members, and UW-Extension – Butts noted all budgets were presented to the County Finance Committee on September 22 and were passed as presented. The next step will be the presentation at the County Board Meeting on October 10, followed by the Final-Budget Approval on November 9.

Other Business – Discussed the All Colleague UW-Extension Conference being held on November 1; therefore, educators will not be available. The committee decided to delay next their meeting to November 8, 2023, at 8:30am

Motion by Guth, second by Sheaffer to adjourn at 9:43 am. Motion carried.