

**Green County
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
January 4, 2023 MINUTES**

The January 4, 2023, meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 8:34am by Extension Green County Ag and Extension Chair, Sue Nelson.

Members present were: Sue Nelson, Kathy Pennington, Peg Sheaffer, Dawn Sass, and Jerry Guth. Also present – Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager, Jackie McCarville, Dairy Agriculture Educator; Victoria Solomon, Community Resource Development Educator, Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Bridget Mouchon, Health & Well-Being Educator, Maggie Milcarek, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator, Kathy Lange, FoodWise Nutrition Educator, and Joe Bonnell(z).

Green County Educator Reports--Written Report for Educators

Andrews asked committee members if they would be interested in volunteering on a 4-H Scholarship program to review scholarships for awards. It would be held on February 15 and would require pre-review of scholarship applications to fill out a rubric. It would also require a 2-3 hour commitment for the scholarship interviews.

Mouchon noted she had presented on the COMET program at the all colleague conference in December.

Presentations:

Maggie Milcarek, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator & Kathy Lange, FoodWise Nutrition Educator, presented on FoodWise in our 4-County Region. Maggie, who started only 1 month ago, gave a brief introduction for herself and noted she will be working on getting more acclimated for our 4-counties. She is currently working on “Harvest of the Month” which places a vegetable for the month or seasonal fruit on display. She is also reaching out for more WIC and Aging partnerships and looking for more garden experts for food gardens. Kathy noted her position is different from others, because she is grant funded by SNAPED and must work with specific audiences. Kathy presented an activity for everyone to participate in to create a meal using the four food groups. The activity is used for youth to Senior Citizens and teaches good choices, reading labels, and eating properly.

Joe Bonnell, Interim Director of North Central Region & Regional Natural Resources Educator, presented on being funded by the Wisconsin DNR. His primary work focuses on Agriculture water quality issues by working with Land & Water Offices in the various counties. WI DATCP in collaboration with UW-Madison Extension has this position to lead a network for Farmer led Watershed groups and to put together educational programs to benefit Wisconsin. Some of the impacts have been—In Green County, for the Lower Sugar River Watershed, based out of Brodhead, using the old golf course clubhouse as a research education center. In Grant County, they are receiving funding for a high priority EPA project to identify leaders in water conservation. Joe is helping develop a program how conservation impacts communities.

Sheafer questioned how Land & Water Departments and UW Extension differ in the work provided. Bonnell explained that Land & Water Departments work with individual farmers/clients for nutrient management planning, direct contact applications, and details of farming aspects with specific plans for a farmer. Extension specialists work with Land & Water Departments to build on those individual contacts and credit learning opportunities for conservation practices for multiple people at a time. Bonnell further noted Tonya Gratz in the Green County office is very involved with the local water shed groups and does a great job getting them recruited and invited to events, etc.

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

Bill Approval – The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for November 2022 (already paid, however this is for documenting purposes) Sass moved to approve the November EFT payments totaling \$376.26, the November check payments totaling \$68,694.49, and the Clean Sweep check payments in the amount of \$13,646.76. Sheaffer second. Motion passed.

Sass also moved to approve the December EFT payments totaling \$132.50, and the December check payments totaling \$633.08. Sheaffer second. Motion passed.

Additional Note- the UW-Madison Extension 2nd Half Invoice was included in the November bills after being revised from the last meeting.

Clean Sweep Discussion

McCarville discussed the Clean Sweep Program held in October. The amount of materials collected for the two-day program were nearly as much as a year long event. It was noted the cost to have DATCP representatives come in and conduct the program for the two days was more expensive than originally planned. If this continues to be the practice, our grant money and County reserve money, will not last long. McCarville/Butts noted it may be beneficial to do only a one-day collection plan if we are going to continue to have DATCP conduct it. It may also be worthwhile to see about Landfill employees taking the training again instead. Butts/McCarville will pass this information onto Matt at the LandFill when they turn over information to his department. Guth thanked Jackie/Jayne for their efforts in keeping the Clean Sweep Program grant and funding going for the past few years.

Memorandum of Understanding for Community Health Care Worker -- GWaar

Mouchon discussed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Community Health Care Worker-GWaar, noting it had been modified by University of Wisconsin Madison to include an addendum. As previously stated, the position is funded thru GWaar and they will be assuming the liability and employer role for this position. Extension Green & Lafayette County are supervising (by Mouchon) and supplying temporary office space & materials as needed. GWaar will also supply a computer, etc. Guth noted the position appears to be funded for up to two years, however, the MOU must be renewed after the first year. Sass questioned if any additional funding was being researched, as the current funding is coming from ARPA money. Mouchon stated they are trying to make sure the value will be found in the program, and will address future funds as they go, possibly within the Care Transition Program. Sheaffer moved, seconded by Sass to accept the MOU for the position. Butts noted Green County has not signed the forms—Mouchon will follow up for the next meeting.

Sheaffer asked for a reminder on how this will interact with the Health Department. Mouchon responded to say recommendations will be given to this position, via the Health Department for chronic health cases, covid cases, and will work in coordination with the Health Department as well as SSM Health. A partnership is still being determined for the referrals and become a part of the Care Transition Intervention Program.

Area Extension Director Updates

Staffing Update—Iowa County 4-H Educator Retirement Sarah Weier—Solomon noted on behalf of Perkins, Sarah Weier, the 4-H Youth Educator retired and her position has been posted. The posting will close on January 18, 2023, and it is hoped a replacement will be selected, interviewed and hopefully start in early March.

Perkins out/Medical Leave – Solomon noted Perkins will be out for medical leave in early January & February, however, hopes to return via zoom features as soon as possible.

Strategic Plan—Perkins is working on a 3-5 year strategic plan and seeking input for Area 17.

Office Manager Updates

UW-Extension Annual Report – Butts noted the office Annual Report will be available at the next Ag & Extension meeting for approval before being distributed to the full county board. Presentation to the County Board will be made on March 14, 2023, with hard copies of the report distributed in February.

County Staff Evaluation Plans –

Butts noted county evaluations are generally done in Jan/Feb. Katie Thurow will only have been with our department for 6 months, however, her year anniversary is early January. Butts noted she would like to do the reviews as in the past with a form being sent out to contacts. In light of Katie's short time with UW-Extension, Butts requested her review be more internal this year. The committee was in favor of Butts' recommendations.

Out of County Travel –

Butts noted Mouchon will be traveling to Omaha, NE for a conference January 30 – February 2, 2023. Pursuant to County Code 1-9-8-A9, we are seeking approval for the travel. This will be a train the trainer conference, for Spanish-Latino impacts on mental health. Both Mouchon and the new GWaar Health Care Community Worker are expected to attend, with no expense to the county. Guth moved, Sass seconded to approve the travel request. Butts will make sure this is added to the January Personnel & Labor agenda.

Other Business –

No further business was presented.

The next meeting will be February 1, 2023, at 8:30am.

Motion by Sass, second by Sheaffer to adjourn at 9:47 am. Motion carried.