

**Green County
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
February 3, 2021 MINUTES**

The February 3, 2021, meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 12:32 PM by Extension Green County Ag and Extension Chair, Erica Roth.

Members present were: Erica Roth, Sue Nelson, Oscar Olson, Art Carter, and Dawn Sass. Also present—Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager; Paul Ohlrogge(z), Extension Area Director, Victoria Solomon(z), Community Resource Development Educator; Ellen Andrews(z), 4-H Youth Development Educator; Jackie McCarville(z), Agriculture Educator; Hannah McMunn(z) Health and Well-Being Educator; Donna Peterson (z), Nutrition Coordinator, and Lana Heins(z) Activity Assistant. (Note: (z) members/attendees were present via Zoom). Maria Schmid was not able to attend.

Green County Educator Reports—

Written Report for Educators

Roth asked if anyone had any questions regarding the written reports provided by the educators. No questions were presented.

Victoria Solomon—Community Resource Development Educator

Solomon gave an overview of her work which included Leadership Development, Organizational Development, Strategic Planning, and Water Testing.

- Green County Leaders (GCL) Virtual Sessions are continuing through May. The sessions have been very popular (numbers doubled) and have increased networking. No tuition, donations or financial support is being collected this year. Solomon anticipates this leadership development style to continue.
- Organizational Development is being done with non-profits. During the pandemic, many of them are facing more challenges and need help with strategic planning. Solomon has been working with the Monroe Public Library (strategic planning), Green Haven (action planning), and Fowler Dental Clinic (capacity building)
- The Multi-Cultural Child Care Boot-Camp Classes are being done in coordination with Cara Carper, Green County Development Corp. This plays an impact on Economic Development, Workforce Development and fills a need for people needing childcare. The boot-camp classes will be presented in both Spanish and English.
- Discussed COVID-19 playing a huge part in everything being done, however, she praised the strong networks in the county giving us strength. She discussed SSM-Monroe Clinic/Green County Public Health Department as examples for getting out updates.
- Water Programming- Solomon noted all 4-towns in the NW Section of Green County (Adams, New Glarus Washington, & York) will be participating in the annual water testing programming this year. While the testing is open to anyone in

the county, these are the municipalities we will be mailing to, etc. Bottle pick-up will be the week of May 17 and a final educational program will be presented June 29.

- **Water Trends Program**—Solomon noted we are completing year 2 of this trend testing, that derived from the 2018 Livestock Study. Kevin Masarik will be sending out results later this week. An educational session will be held February 23, 2021, and a county board session is being scheduled.

Solomon thanked the County Board Supervisors for their role in County Government. Carter thanked Solomon for the complete report and Roth noted what an impact all the educators have in the county and how she feels Extension is invaluable.

Minutes Approval—Carter moved to approve the minutes from the January 2021 meeting and Sass seconded. Motion passed.

Bill Approval --The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for January 2021. Olson moved to approve the January EFT payments totaling \$185.70 and the January check payments totaling \$1,949.11. Second by Nelson to approve the vouchers for payment. Motion carried. Butts asked about any action on making the bill paying process more uniform throughout the county. Sass reported dollar amounts in the policy are being updated and will be shared soon.

Paul Ohlrogge, Area Extension Director/Jayne Butts, Office Manager, Extension Green County:

Furlough Days—Ohlrogge discussed educators are now taking some of their furlough days. Furlough days have been designated at 3-4 days based on longevity of employment with Extension.

Extension Overall State Budget-- Ohlrogge discussed during the Lafayette County Ag & Extension meeting, questions were raised about budget shortfalls. Ohlrogge felt that with the furlough days, the indication is Extension will be supported by Tommy Thompson as being fiscally safe.

2020 Extension Annual Report—Butts presented the 2020 Extension Report for the board to review and noted since it was emailed out, some additional cosmetic and grammatical changes had been made. Butts thanked educators for their contributions. Andrews thanked Butts/Heins for their efforts in making the information presentable. Roth noted how pleased she was to see the comprehensive lists of work being done by educators. With the committee's approval, the report will be distributed at the February 9th County Board Meeting and presented on at the March 9 meeting.

SSM Health Donation for Educational Services—Butts noted a \$1,000 donation was received to support community programs in Green County to provide health improvement services, resources, and health education. Butts noted the money was placed in donations, however, if COVID-19 prevents the dollars from being used, the money should be moved to a non-lapsing account to accommodate SSM Health's request. Butts noted she had already discussed this with the Financial Director, however, wanted the committee to be aware as well. The committee agreed with Butts' request.

Closed Session—Chair Roth 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, Olson second. Motion passed unanimously. The committee entered closed session at 12:50pm.

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 1:15 pm.

No action was taken on items discussed in closed session.

Chair Roth asked for **any other business**. Carter briefly mentioned possible action to be taken for fire protection for the Humane Society, Hospice Home, Pleasant View Nursing Home and the Government Services Building is being discussed with the City of Monroe. Follow up will continue.

March 3, at 12:30 pm was set for the next meeting.

Motion by Sass, second by Carter to adjourn at 1:17 pm. Motion carried.