

# **Green County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee June 2, 2021, MINUTES**

The June 2, 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, Dawn Sass, and Art Carter. Also present—Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager; Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator; Victoria Solomon, Community Resource Development Educator; Matt Hanson(z), Extension Assistant Dean; Jackie McCarville(z), Agriculture Educator; Donna Peterson(z), FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator, and Hannah McMunn(z) Health and Well-Being Educator. (Note: (z) members/attendees were present via Zoom). Maria Schmid, FoodWise Educator, and Lana Heins, Extension Activity Assistant were not able to attend.

## **Green County Educator Reports—**

### **Written Report for Educators**

Nelson expressed how impressed with all the events and responsibilities and Roth agreed.

### **Green County Fair**

Andrews discussed how Extension is moving forward with Educators to be active at fairs. Both Andrews and McCarville will be navigating project areas to guide 4-H /FFA youth and Green County Fair volunteers. Entries closed yesterday and therefore, exact numbers are not yet known, however, we are anticipating a good number of participants. McCarville discussed animal number comparisons based on pre-fair animal ID processes. While numbers are down a little, the animal projects should have good representation. She is also busy guiding the auction committees on safe ways to proceed with their auctions. Butts noted behind the scenes, the office is very busy with families stopping in and gathering information to support the 4-H families with their fair entry processes. Butts/Andrews noted there were a large number of phone calls and live visits the last few days due to fair entries.

### **Victoria Solomon – Community Resource Development Educator**

Solomon discussed she has been very busy and today she was focusing on Green County Leaders. She presented a report showing the Participant Analysis for the September 2020 – May 2021 year. Labeled as “A Year of Adaptability”, the program was one of only a few in the state that proceeded to move forward with leader training in a new format. One hundred seventy-seven unique individuals participated in the 2020-2021 sessions (compared to 84 in the 2019-2020 sessions) Solomon discussed the results of the sessions as shown in the report and noted her favorite was the “Braver Angels” session. Braver Angels is a national organization that uses research data for civil conversations, basically teaching a way to “agree to disagree” and move forward. Braver Angels has helped stimulate difficult conversations, sometimes political, and allow for respectful communication.

**Minutes Approval**—Olson moved to approve the minutes from the May 2021 meeting and Sass seconded. Motion passed.

**Bill Approval** --The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for May 2021. Carter moved to approve the May EFT payments totaling \$291.11 and the May check payments totaling \$784.82. Second by Sass to approve the vouchers for payment. Motion carried.

**Health and Well Being Position:** Hannah McMunn thanked the County for the opportunity to work for Extension Green County. She enjoyed her time here and learned many things along the way. The committee expressed appreciation for her work in a non-traditional year.

Hanson noted the institute has approved hiring a replacement Health and Well Being Educator as a shared position. Discussions were made about hiring the educator as a 50/50 position vs 60/40, sharing with Lafayette County. McMunn was called upon to provide input and noted the 50/50 position would be most feasible for the programming being done. Carter questioned if moving the position to 50/50 would reduce services in Green County. McMunn noted because the programming was equally serviceable for both counties, it shouldn't be a problem. Butts further noted with the Health Educator position at the Health Department, some of the services can be offered there, eliminating duplication of both educator's efforts. Butts also noted moving the position to a 50/50 level would reduce the county expenditure by approximately \$4,360. Lafayette County was contacted and has approved a 50/50 split. Carter moved to pursue the 50/50 shared position, Olson second. Motion passed. It was further noted, since the contract renews each year, this could be reviewed again next year. Hanson noted we will move forward with posting the position.

### **Assistant Dean/Office Manager Updates**

**COVID-19 Updates-** Hanson discussed educators have been returning to office positions with safety protocol in place. Most recent mask restrictions have been updated as well as the number of people who can meet together. Extension is following the UW-Madison campus protocol and County rules as needed. More updates will be coming as time progresses including masks optional vs required.

**General Updates** - Hanson noted all educators should be back in the office fulltime by July 5. An office presence is necessary for Extension and Counties to be engaged. Carter noted being "visible" is important in taxpayer's eyes. Continued progression to the office will be made.

**Area Educational Director Replacement Updates** - Hanson noted 12 applications were received, both external and internal candidates. The Search/Screen Committee (Andrews is a member) will begin a screening process soon.

### **Other Business:**

Butts discussed masking changes for the Justice Center Multipurpose Rooms. In the last few days, Extension has removed a lot of restrictions about masks. Butts questioned if the signage should be changed from "Masks Required" to "Masks Optional". The committee agreed a changeup should be done – Butts will follow up.

Butts questioned how members want to receive **agendas and meeting documentation** for the Ag & Extension meetings. In an effort to save postage costs, members decided to do email. Butts agreed to make copies of larger documents as needed.

No Meeting will be held in July. August 2, at 12:30 pm was set for the next meeting, unless hiring opportunities require a meeting ahead of time.

Motion by Carter, second by Olson to adjourn at 1:35 pm. Motion carried.