

**Green County**  
**Agriculture and Extension Education Committee**  
**August 4, 2021 MINUTES**

The August 4, 2021 meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 12:30 PM by Extension Green County Ag and Extension Chair, Erica Roth.

Members present were: Erica Roth, Sue Nelson, Oscar Olson, and Art Carter. Dawn Sass attended via Zoom. Also present—Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager; Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator; Jackie McCarville, Agriculture Educator; Delores Merrick, Green County HR Director, and Lynn Perkins, NEW! Area Extension Director. Dawn Sass, Matt Hanson(z), Extension Assistant Dean; Donna Peterson(z), FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator, and Lana Heins, Extension Activity Assistant attended via Zoom. (Note: (z) members/attendees were present via Zoom). Victoria Solomon, Community Resource Development Educator was not able to attend.

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

Roth asked if there were any comments for written reports. Carter questioned the Green County Fair auctions and McCarville noted the Livestock Auction \$36,000 more than in 2019. Olson questioned the Tractor Safety program and McCarville noted she helped at Blackhawk Technical College with tests, similar to what we used to do with FFA Teachers.

**Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator**

Andrews discussed her 4-H Thriving Program model. This year 4-H gained some much-needed momentum in the Youth Belonging category, giving them a safe, welcoming feeling. Andrews also discussed the developmental “sparks” including academic attitude, personal responsibility, social competence, etc.

Youth and adults were able to unite at the Green County Fair and it was very rewarding to work together, face to face again. In addition, youth reflected lessons learned during virtual learning last year in projects brought to the fair this year. One contest done virtually last year, that gained additional participation this year was the Premier Exhibitor contest. Approximately 70 youth did the competition –35 of which did written questions tests and 40 more skill-a-thon questions. We are looking forward to 4-H Day Camps this year to be held August 1 (Belleville), 7<sup>th</sup> (Monticello), and 10<sup>th</sup> (Kiwanis Youth Cabin, Monroe). Natalie Roe, Summer Intern, has been very instrumental in developing ideas for these as well.

Andrews is anticipating 4-H COVID restrictions to be changed up with the recent Delta Variant—such as instead of wording in policies saying masks are “optional” –it may say “recommended”.

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

**Bill Approval** --The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for June & July 2021. Carter moved to approve the June EFT payments totaling \$134.99, July EFT payments totaling \$198.39 and the June check payments totaling \$17,752.68 and July check payments totaling \$208.96. Second by Olson to approve the vouchers for payment. Motion carried

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

**Introduction of NEW AED – Lynn Perkins-** Butts welcomed the new AED Lynn Perkins and asked her to introduce herself. Lynn grew up in Rock County on a Beef Farm, is a former 4-Her, and worked as a Wisconsin Educator in Extension in the early years of her career. After moving to New York and then finishing her Master's Degree thru Cornell University, she came back to Wisconsin and has been working at the UW Whitewater College as the Director of Recruitment & Retention.

**Health & Well Being Position-** Hanson noted the position will be posted after Lynn Perkins is on board after August 15.

**FoodWise Positions** - Butts advised the Committee, Maria Schmid left her position here to take a FoodWise position in Milwaukee. Butts questioned if that position would be refilled. Hanson noted Donna's position would be filled first as that posting has been approved for hire. Both positions come from federal funding. Donna noted she would be retiring September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and is currently working 3 days a week and using up vacation days.

## **COVID-19 Updates –**

- Hanson advised it is a bit frustrating to think we are headed back into the mask-up restrictions. UW-Madison recently noted masks must be worn on campus in State buildings, however, may be challenged by Legislators.
- Hanson noted an updated email will be coming out from Karl Martin regarding these updates, however, counties should follow county procedures as their first precedent.
- Carter discussed county protocol may be changing as well based on being vaccinated or not vaccinated. Merrick noted according to her records, approximately 55% of county employees are vaccinated.
- Olson questioned the "factor 5" as a reason to not get vaccines—Sass noted that has to do with blood clotting.

**General Updates-** Hanson discussed WEXA (formerly WASEC) and noted 14 individuals on the board are exploring options to reach out to fellow board members. Meetings/conferences are being planned to possible attendance, possibly in June to let people know what goes on.

**Extension Green County—Department Head Discussion** – Butts questioned the County Department Head position for Extension Green County. Currently, her position fills the role, but is not recognized as doing so. Merrick reported that according to Brian Bucholtz, Corporate Counsel, UW Madison needs to be in agreement for this position. Carter disagreed stating this is a county decision like any other department head position. Butts noted while the position would not control the state positions, uniformity for the county office needs to be in place. Carter recommended job descriptions be pulled, compared and reviewed for more information.

## **Summer Intern/Student Assistant**

Butts noted our Summer Intern, Natalie Roe and Student Assistant, Marissa Vosberg will complete their employment on August 13. Both girls are gone this week showing dairy cattle at the Wisconsin State Fair. Their contributions to our office this summer were greatly appreciated!

The next meeting will be held on September 1, at 12:30 pm.

Motion by Olson, second by Nelson to adjourn at 1:27 pm. Motion carried.