

# **Green County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee September 6, 2023 MINUTES**

The September 6, 2023, meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 8:33 am by Extension Green County Ag and Extension Chair, Sue Nelson.

Members present were: Sue Nelson, Jerry Guth and Kathy Pennington. Peg Sheaffer & Dawn Sass were excused. Also present—Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager; Lynn Perkins, Area Extension Director; Jackie McCarville, Agriculture Educator, Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Maggie Milcarek, Nutrition Coordinator and Bridget Mouchon, Health & Well-Being Educator.

## **Green County Educator Reports--Written Report for Educators**

Nelson asked for comments or questions on the written reports. Butts thanked Nelson for pointing out details under Bridget Mouchon's report that related to agriculture. The report was corrected to show Bridget's details were about StrongBodies Strength Training.

Butts also discussed the state recording software, noting sometimes it doesn't allow for the educators to include work-in-progress situations without outcome results. She noted each educator has had a month of where their activity looks "light" however, it is not due to the lack of work being done, however, it's not as notable for that month on the state site. We continue to explore using the software appropriately to allow for details of work-in-progress items to be included. Butts felt committee members should be aware of this information, if questions arise about "lighter" activity months.

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

Andrews did a presentation highlighting 4-H Camp Experiences at Upham Woods, near the Wisconsin Dells. Green County 4-H youth, grades 3-6, participate in a 4-Day, 3-Night Camp with Adult & High School Volunteers. Andrews noted the importance of taking and caring for the kids and providing activities for the best learning experiences. This year, great staff adults returned to help, as well as previously trained high school students, all coming from various backgrounds. Intentional changes were made for camp experiences... like more snacks/fruits, meals in cabin grounds to capture emotional challenges, and choice of activities to spark different youth interests and energy levels. This was the second year of a "sliding scale" participant payment option, allowing families to pay for camp based on what they can afford and being subsidized by the Green County 4-H Adult Leaders organization.

**Minutes Approval** – Guth moved to approve the August 2, 2023, Ag & Extension committee meeting minutes and Nelson seconded. Motion passed.

**Bill Approval** – The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for August 2023. Guth moved to approve the August EFT: \$523.84 and the August Check Payments: \$12,727.44, second by Pennington. Motion passed.

## **Area Extension Director Updates**

### **Area 17 Staffing Update**

- **Iowa County Health & Well-Being Educator**—No update was given.
- **Regional Livestock Agriculture Educator**-- position was offered to applicant, however was turned down. Position will be re-advertised and start over for possible hiring processes. Perkins discussed the required writing exercise and Guth questioned if any responses were A.I. generated. Follow up will continue.

- **Regional Crops & Soils Ag Educator** – Perkins noted Josh Kamps, Lafayette County Ag Educator, has given notice to take a position in Rock County. After discussions with the 4-counties, the position will be posted for 3-weeks with applicants reviewed for the interview process. Guth questioned if Focus Group information could be utilized for need and advertising of the position, Perkins will follow up.
- **Natural Resource Institute Update**– Perkins noted Joe Bonnell has departed from UW-Extension also. A bulk of his position was funded by the DNR, and therefore, he has transitioned to a complete DNR employee. It is uncertain at this time if Extension will be supporting someone in that position for our area at this time.

### **Office Manager Updates**

**Clean Sweep**—McCarville noted we received notification the 2024 Clean Sweep grant being awarded to Green County will be \$11,259.71. This contract will be signed by Todd Jenson, Land & Water County Conservationist, for the future year. She also discussed the wrap up filing of the final report for the 2023 Clean Sweep event, noting the bills for collections totaled out at \$11,580.40. Now that the 2023 paperwork season should be complete, Jackie/Jayne will be meeting with Todd Jenson, County Conservationist to transfer the documents for future needs.

### **Review, Discuss and Approve 2023 Preliminary Budgets for Tractor Safety, Clean Sweep, Fair, Pesticide Applicator Training, 4-H Members, and UW-Extension**

Butts presented the 2024 Preliminary Budgets and reviewed details for each as follows:

- ***Tractor Safety***—Projected to continue to purchase First Aid Safety Kits for Tractor Safety graduates. This is a non-lapsing budget, with no effect to the tax levy.
- ***Jr Fair***—Projected to continue to support the Green County Fair with full impact on the levy for \$10,000.
- ***Pesticide Applicator Training***—Expenses & Income to reflect possible training in the County. This is a non-lapsing budget, with no effect to the tax levy. Participation is expected to be lower in 2024, as it was a large year in 2023.
- ***4-H Member***—Butts discussed this budget is expected to begin having activity now in Nov-Dec of 2023. Some of the money collected for 4-H member dues will be housed within the county and expensed for things such as accident insurance, 4-H promotional expenses, Americorp person material supplies, New 4-H Family Orientation supplies, and Cloverbud workshop supplies. This is a non-lapsing budget, with no effect to the tax levy.
- ***Clean Sweep*** – Projected expenses being finalized due to the recent decision to host a Clean Sweep 1-day program in October. Projections for 2024 were based on a 1-day program that will need to be done to receive grant money. Details are being discussed with Todd Jenson. This is a non-lapsing budget, with no effect to the tax levy.
- ***UW-Extension***– Butts discussed details of the UW-Extension budget, projections, and impact to show a decrease to the tax levy for 2024. In 2023, Butts noted due to vacancies within the office employment, county payroll estimated changes, State payroll changes and other expenses, an overage of money to be returned to the County exists. Butts requested to purchase a new copier with some of that leftover money and increase some expenditures for 2023, while still returning over \$20,000 to the County Fund. Butts also discussed the Annual Water Testing program numbers and the Water Trend numbers included in our budget. The Narrative letter for support is being finalized with the details as discussed.

Butts will finalize all budgets for the Finance Presentation on September 22, 2023. Copies will be emailed to our committee, with the narrative. Guth moved to proceed with the budgets, Nelson seconded. Motion passed.

**Other Business –**

Butts noted Green County Leaders had their first session today and was in New Glarus. Samantha Wileman, the new UW-Extension Activity Assistant is participating in that program to gain Green County knowledge that will be beneficial to working in our office. She is not a Green County native and therefore, this will be very beneficial.

Nelson mentioned she read about the Lasagna Love project in the HCE newsletter and was pleased to see that program is still being discussed.

The next meeting will be October 4, 2023, at 8:30am – (*notation to “wear green” to support 4-H Week!*)

Motion by Guth, second by Pennington to adjourn at 10:06 am. Motion carried.