

**Green County  
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee  
October 6, 2021 MINUTES**

The October 6, 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, Dawn Sass, and Art Carter. Also present—Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager and Lynn Perkins, Area Extension Director. Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator; Jackie McCarville(z), Agriculture Educator; Joe Bonnell, Regional Natural Resources Educator, and Lana Heins(z), Extension Activity Assistant. (Note: (z) members/attendees were present via Zoom).

**Green County Educator Reports—**

**Written Report for Educators**

Roth asked if there were any comments for written reports and commented it looked good.

Roth questioned the Ag Educator about the World Dairy Expo booth. McCarville noted the Ag Institute management feels booths need to be tied to educational outcomes and at this time, it was determined not enough positive learning is generated from those types of events. (i.e. World Dairy Expo, Farm Technology Days, etc.) The committee felt it is detrimental to Extension to not participate in these events, where free learning happens between peers, businesses and producers. Lynn Perkins said she would relay that to the State.

Roth questioned Andrews, 4-H Educator, for any additional comments—Andrews discussed National 4-H Week happening now and noted a staff picture was taken supporting the program by wearing green.

**Joe Bonnell, Regional Natural Resources Educator**

Joe Bonnell started February 3, 2020, right before the pandemic closed down operations, 6 weeks later. Therefore, he proceeded to give an introduction about himself and his programming. Joe comes to us with 20 years of experience from Ohio State University. He currently works for Grant, Green, Iowa and Lafayette. He has four educational opportunities he uses—Collaborative; Adult Education; Organizational Development; and Leadership. Joe is working with Ag Community's on Precision Conservation—basically teaching the “right thing, right place and right time”. Joe is working with Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Nature Conservancy and other groups regarding watershed and water quality practices. He is meeting with Tonya Gratz, Green County Land & Water, regarding water sheds in Green County, and is also working with people in Grant County regarding various grants. Hoping also to collaborate with Upper Michigan University about participation in Water Shed Leadership and also working on a project with Vernon County. His position is nearly 100% funded by DNR. Roth asked if he finds farmers are interested in change—with the Water Sheds being led by farmers, Joe sees good interest in participating in change. Roth asked about what is most challenging—Joe noted the most challenging is finding his role and building collaboration in farm leaders for good relationships. Andrews added, so much in Extension is about finding that balance with relationships, because many of the people we work with contribute to our programs in multiple ways, both professionally and personally.

**Minutes Approval** –Olson moved, Sass seconded to approve the September meeting minutes. Motion passed.

**Bill Approval** --The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for September 2021. Butts noted the Water Trends bill came in almost \$1,300 lower than expected, due to the trend

testing/processing being completed at less costs. Carter moved to approve the September EFT payments totaling \$241.74 and the September check payments totaling \$19,519.11. Second by Sass to approve the vouchers for payment. Motion carried.

### **Area Extension Director/Office Manager Updates**

**Health & Well Being Position-** Perkins advised she is working with Amber Canto, Institute Director, regarding finalizing hiring plans for this position, that will be a 50/50 split with Lafayette County. The position is expected to be posted soon, with an application end date of 10/29/21.

**FoodWise Coordinator Position** - Perkins advised only a small pool of candidates was received. One candidate, who was considered for the position, has now withdrawn, therefore, they are reviewing the position details and will be re-posting.

### **COVID-19 Updates –**

Perkins noted no new State updates and continuing to follow County protocol for masking requirements. According to campus updates, approximately 92% of students/staff/etc. on campus are vaccinated.

### **Discussion of 2022 University of Wisconsin-Division of Extension Contract with Green County**

Butts noted the contract had an increase in Educator costs and the percentage for the Health & Well Being Educator that were expected. These figures were used in the 2022 budgeted costs. Perkins noted the flat rate educator cost will continue, with the exception of charging for professional fees being eliminated. Butts noted approximately \$4,800 was left in the State Professional Development Account and Roth asked Perkins to research how to handle this. Butts also questioned contract language stating “Extension is committed to maintaining an office in every county” due to the proposed Regional Ag Institute model.

### **2022 BUDGET – Tractor Safety, Clean Sweep, Fair, Pesticide Applicator, & UW-Extension**

Butts noted the Extension budgets were presented to the Green County Finance Committee for review and were passed. The next presentation will be October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the County Board Meeting. After that, final presentation and approval will be at the November 9, 2021 meeting.

### **Other Business --**

McCarville discussed the Sheep Open House to be held on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the *Ms. J and Company Sheep Dairy Farm*. She will be in attendance, with some other specialists and Ag Industry personnel. The event plans to tour the farm (with the exception of the animal areas due to biosecurity reasons) and learn about milking sheep as well as marketing practices of Sheep & Goat genetics. The actual schedule of events is being release later this week with more details. Ag & Extension Committee members were invited to attend as well.

McCarville also noted we received notification of being awarded another Clean Sweep Grant in the amount of \$7,850.00. She is currently waiting on paperwork to come from the State for signatures.

Carter noted the Public Defender office will be moving by the end of the year.

The next meeting will be held on November 3, at 12:30 pm.

Motion by Nelson, second by Sass to adjourn at 1:34 pm. Motion carried.