

Draft
Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Agriculture and Extension Education Committee

Date of Meeting: April 18, 2019

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date April 23, 2019

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair Don Black.

Members present: Don Black, Nettie Rosenow, Jon Seipel

Others present: Annie Lisowski, Carl Duley, Mary Wood, and Pat Malone

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: None

Review/Discussion/Action – Minutes of February 6, 2019 meeting:

Motion by Rosenow/Seipel to accept minutes of the February 6, 2019 meeting as printed.
Carried

Review/Discussion/Action – Status of the 4-H Program Coordinator position.

Malone updated the committee on the progress that has been made regarding additional 4-H program support so the county can have increased positive youth development education. A number of options exist including partnering with Pepin County. Malone met with S. Hanson and P. Hansen to discuss the options. There is agreement that the idea is worth exploring. Pepin County would need some assurances that participating in the Buffalo County fair will still be an option. Any additional staff costs would need to be covered by the county. The state does not have the ability to pay for additional 4-H support. The group discussed moving forward on their own or waiting until Pepin County was ready to establish a partnership. At this point, Buffalo County will move forward with an Extension Associate Educator for 2020 because the budget cycle requires them to have a resolution and position description ready to go in May in order to be in the 2020 budget. At the same time, staff was encouraged to move forward with discussions with Pepin County to share a position.

Review/Discussion/Action – Brainstorming to address 2020 budget changes and long-term plan for Extension Buffalo County.

The main capital expenditures the Extension office faces include staff computers and copier machines. We would like to move to following the county's cycle of one new computer per staff member per year on a five year rotation. This would require adding \$2,000/year to the budget to cover costs comfortably. The second major expenditure is the copy machine. We had a new machine installed in 2018. We expect the machine to last at least five years. Malone will ask

Sonya about any changes in the computer purchase policy and the copy machine policy so we can plan appropriately. The impact of staffing changes was discussed under the 4-H position update. We are also awaiting news from Extension's leadership team regarding the \$10,000 discount and flat fees for educators. Malone will send staff and committee the news regarding the Dean's decision as soon as she is permitted.

Review/Discussion/Action – Approval to use non-lapsing grant funds for partial funding of attendance at the Industrial Hemp Conference in Cologne, Germany.

Duley will be attending the Industrial Hemp Conference and the Hop Research Station in Germany to complement the work he is doing on hops production and hemp research. He is requesting \$500 from the Hops Project fund (which is designated to support local hops research) and \$500 from the PAT (Pesticide Applicator Fund – used to support his agronomy research efforts) to offset the costs of his attendance at these events. Motion by Siepel/Rosenow to approve the use of \$500 from the Hops Project fund and \$500 from the PAT fund to support his travel to Germany. Carried. This action will be moved forward to the HR committee for their review and approval.

UW-Extension Reports:

- a. Wood shared her report with the committee on her on-going work in A Better Beginning and the Early Years Partnership. Her Literacy Link pilot project is really picking up steam. Her team has presented to the UW-System President and at a national conference on Children of Incarcerated Parents. They will also be presenting at the state JCEP conference. Reality Check finished up. It was very successful with 350 students and 165 volunteers. New this year was a section on Entrepreneurship.
- b. Lisowski shared information about the Community Prevention programs her coalition conducted at Mondovi and C-FC. They had 50 participants in Mondovi and a 100+ participants at C-FC. These efforts were very well-received. She is gearing up for Senior Day – an educational event for high school students. Content includes college readiness, drugs, relationships, and other valuable information for youth transitioning to adulthood. She will also be attending a Real Colors Facilitator Training program.
- c. Duley shared his recent efforts. He shared a summary that looked at the socioeconomic impacts the winter structural damage has had on the county. As a follow-up, he will be attending a meeting with the WI Framebuilders Association to discuss how this issue should be addressed. He is getting ready for his summer plots. He will have 10 this year. He has also been writing small grants to support his plot work.

Review/Discussion/Action – Establish next AEEC meeting date and identify future agenda items: Next meeting is set for May 16, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Mary Wood will make arrangements to Jon Siepel can participate in the meeting via Zoom. The committee feels that will make

participation easier for the committee members and staff. Agenda items will include the following:

- Approve FoodWise contract for the upcoming Federal year.
- Review and approve the position description for 4-H support.
- Review and approve a resolution creating a position to support 4-H programming.
- Review/Discussion/Approval of a Buffalo County Booth at the 2020 Farm Technology Days.

Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda: None

Adjournment: Black declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by:
Patricia Malone
Area Extension Director