

## **AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**March 1, 2022**

**Members Present:** Myron Brooks, Catherine Lemke, Jim Metz

**Absent:** Ray Soper

**Others Present:** Sandra Stuttgen, Michelle Grimm, Julie Diepenbrock, Art Lersch, and Kelly Phillips

Minutes by Phillips.

**Call meeting to order:** Jim Metz, Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Approve minutes of the January 4, 2022, meeting:** Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2022, meeting; Lemke seconded. Motion carried.

**Approve the agenda:** Lemke moved to approve the agenda; Brooks seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approve bills and vouchers:** Brooks moved to approve the January and February 2022 bills and vouchers; Lemke seconded. Motion carried.

**Educator Highlight Reports:** Educators gave oral report to supplement written report. Highlights were reviewed and discussed from:

**Julie Diepenbrock, Taylor/Price 4-H Program Coordinator:** 4-H Clubs are meeting and involved – at a great place compared to last year. Partnerships – Huey’s Hideaway on days students have off from school and summer program – focus on photography and Lego Robotics. Working with county libraries during summer reading programs to share some STEM activities. Working with local talents to fill teachable activities like Maple Syrup, Cake Decorating and Woodworking projects. Summer Day Camps set throughout the county.

**Sandy Stuttgen, Agriculture Education/Programming:** Presented at River County Co-op’s Dairy Producer Conference re: neonatal calf care for lifelong dairy-beef animal performance. PELTR (Planning Emergency Livestock Transport Response) being offering online then in-person training in May. Finished PAT (Pesticide Application Training) certifications. Cattle Feeder Series on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of March via Zoom. Dairy beef cross cattle from birth to harvest webinar series in March.

**Michelle Grimm, Community Development:** End of January, held Maple Syrup course with Program Manager and Dave Lemke Sr. StrongBodies Spring starts up again this month. Plans to upgrade Community Gardens with 4-H and RVA students from money provided by Master Gardeners. Local youth groups plant gardens then donate to local pantries the end of summer. First Clean Sweep date May 7<sup>th</sup> then chemicals in June. Looking into EBT options with Farmer’s Market. FEED Workshops kick off this month – tips for food and farm businesses.

**Update on FoodWise Coordinator & Educator positions for Taylor County:** Open position for FoodWise Coordinator closed on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Several good applicants to move forward with interviews. Once Coordinator position is in place, then move forward with Educator position.

**Extension office copy machine update:** Staying with Bauernfeind and current lease until new copier/lease comes in. New copier coming from Bauernfeind with new lease. ETA for new Konica machine is TBD.

**4-H Summer Intern:** Planning on hiring again. Funds to be shared and position with Price County again as well. Balance in account is nearly at \$8,000. We have candidate that expressed interest. Job will be posted. This position will run from June – August 2022.

**AED Update:** University is imposing a 3% fee increase to cover rising costs of personnel. This will equate to about \$2,700 for the county. New University President, Jay Rothman, starts around the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Also hiring a new Chancellor for UW-Madison Extension.

**Next committee meeting:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 9 a.m. in person at the USDA Service Center.

**Adjournment:** Lemke moved to adjourn at 9:57 a.m.; Brooks seconded. Motion carried.

## **AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**January 4, 2022**

**Members Present:** Myron Brooks, Catherine Lemke, Jim Metz

**Absent:** Ray Soper

**Others Present:** Sandra Stuttgen, Michelle Grimm, Brenda Fierke, Julie Diepenbrock, Art Lersch, and Kelly Phillips

Minutes by Phillips.

**Call meeting to order:** Catherine Lemke, Chairman called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

**Approve minutes of the November 2, 2021, meeting:** Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2021, meeting; Metz seconded. Motion carried.

**Approve the agenda:** Brooks moved to approve the agenda; Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approve bills and vouchers – two months' worth.** A question by Catherine was asked prior meeting and confirmed during meeting by Art re: mileage payment for 4-H Educator. Art stated because the Educator needs to travel from home office to Price County, the milage reimbursement is split between the two counties. Brooks moved to approve the November and December 2021 bills and vouchers; Metz seconded. Motion carried.

### **Educator Highlight Reports**

**Brenda Fierke (FoodWise):** 4 days left until retirement. A collaborative effort to update the Taylor County Food Resource Guide was made and completed. Healthy Homemade Calendars created and shared with Rib Lake Community Food Pantry, Head Start and St. Paul's Food Pantry. Head Start is under Northwest Community Action vs Indianhead. All partners/agencies (8) were contacted re: retirement and new person will contact once in place. Brenda to leave all contact information for new personnel.

**Julie Diepenbrock, Taylor/Price 4-H Program Coordinator:** Met with Huey's Hideaway re: upcoming plans to work collaboratively during days that school is not in session (capitalizing on the success from past efforts). Come Summer, Extension will have one session per week at Huey's during their Summer sessions. The Harvest Day Parade had a great turn-out of 4-H'ers. Trick or Treat for the Hungry with the older 4-H'ers ended up donating 211 pounds of food for local pantries. Fleece Blankets in Lublin was a great hit with a good turn-out. 4-H'ers attended the grand opening of Tractor Supply. Julie was able to connect with the Manager and Assistant Manager who does pullorum testing. All clubs are meeting in-person and doing fun activities like bowling, curling, sledding etc. Working on Winter Camp and upcoming Federation Event.

**Sandy Stuttgen, Agriculture Education/Programming:** Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) to take place in Medford February 22<sup>nd</sup> (a 5-year certification process), in-person and via Zoom. Probably Extensions last year having a role in this; DATCP to manage themselves. Planning for Emergency Livestock Trailer Response (PELTR) course was online in Canvas – 5

people went thru class and in-person instruction in Marathon County. Next PELTR in May (statewide effort) being offered at NTC – Ag Research Farm in Wausau and in-person. Open enrollment to start in March – assignments done by in-person training in May. Cost \$50. Farm Tech Days (brochure handed out): robots going in; putting in H2O mattresses; calf raising pads; plus interactive hands-on activities. Marieke involved as well. Beef/Dairy calves will be highlighted from Extension (a display on-site). 2024 Farm Tech will be in Chippewa County and Sandy will be involved and 2023 in Baraboo area. February cow/calf feeder workshops – beef heifers focus and cattle feeders.

**Michelle Grimm, Community Development:** Spills discussions taking place in towns association meetings. December – finished Learning for Life series – 10 attendees. New statewide maple syrup specialists – connected Dave Lemke & Association. Broadband continues to meet – proposals, PSC and Federal Grants being worked on. Targeting lower lying areas first. Tourism looking at ARPA funds. Strong Bodies starts up next week again with 3 locations and on-line offerings: new instructor on board.

**Brenda Fierke Retirement Recognition:** Recognition to happen at County Board Meeting. Metz motioned to send recognition to County Board; Brooks second. Motion carried.

**Extension office copy machine:** Lease is up in February; we are having issues with copier so looking into new copier and additional bids; Bauernfeind and counties contracted preference, EO Johnson, which the county is helping us evaluate how to proceed.

**AED Update:** Still looking into having a Taylor County Educator back in office; first filling Coordinator Position, then Langlade/Lincoln position before filling Taylor/Lincoln Educator position (possibly first half of 2022). Starting to refill Lincoln County with part-time CD person starting and attempting Human Dev'l in Price County full-time. A few part-time positions trying to fill plus internship. Taylor/Price coming up – hopefully past intern will reapply (Amanda). Moving towards a full staff throughout Area 3. Chancellor is leaving – process to fill is beginning. President search is ongoing with interim being Tommy Thompson. No changes due to Omicron variant.

**Next committee meeting:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 9 a.m. in person at the USDA Service Center.

**Adjournment:** Brooks moved to adjourn at 9:47 a.m.; Metz seconded. Motion carried.