

DRAFT
Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Agriculture and Extension Education Committee

Date of Meeting: February 21, 2017

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date February 22, 2017

Members present: Mr. Scott Smith, Mr. Don Black, and Mr. David Danzinger (remotely via conference phone).

Others present: Ms. Annie Lisowski, Ms. Mary Wood and Mr. Douglas Kane

The meeting was called to order at 7:49 a.m. by chair, Mr. Smith.

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the February 6, 2017 AEEC Minutes: Motion by Mr. Black, second by Mr. Danzinger to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Review/Discussion/Action – nEXT Generation Recommendations: Mr. Kane shared some of the details of the nEXT Generation Recommendations (February 7, 2017) from the Wisconsin Counties Association meeting. The services will be regionalized with more information about what the services will be still to come in April 2017. A concern of Mr. Kane is that the new recommendations may undermine the relationship between educators and the County and its citizens. One of the questions Mr. Black had after reading the recommendations was how it may impact the educators in Buffalo County. Mr. Kane clarified that there will be one UW-Extension Educator and office in each county but the services will be regionalized. There will be an Area Director that will serve as the regionally department. There is an understanding that there is less service for same amount of the budget. These recommendations are in response to significant cuts to the University in the last two biennium budgets. Mr. Danzinger expressed concern in the Area Director serving as ultimately hiring authority for area and county educators. Ms. Wood added that the previous intention for a “Super Committee” with a committee across Buffalo, Pepin, Jackson and Trempealeau counties is no longer a piece of these recommendations. Instead the Area Director would be responsible for negotiating with county committee. In this circumstance, would there still be a need or a benefit for having a committee and, if not, does that mean that the County would lose even more opportunities for contribution and decision-making in regards to responding to local needs? Mr. Danzinger spoke to his concerns about the Area Director having the ultimate level of power. Mr. Danzinger believes that the Area Director would not have a “pulse” on the county to address local needs. Mr. Danzinger said that the relationship with Area Director will be very important. Mr. Kane pointed out that the recommendations for reorganization are from the perspective of the administration rather than the perspective of the clientele. Mr. Black sees the recommendations as a drop in services and a cut back in people and the result is the reduction of trust between the organization and people. Mr. Duley suggested that the opportunity to do some formalizing of specialization of educator’s work could be valuable. There was some discussion about responding to local needs and how the

recommendations do not seem to address how educators will be able to respond quicker than they do now. Ms. Lisowski shared how she, Ms. Wood and Mr. Duley develop programs in Buffalo County to meet local needs based on the most current research rather than teaching a 'canned' program. There was a concern that the creativity and responsiveness would be diminished as a result of the current recommendations. A discussion about the importance of protective factors, prevention efforts and experiential learning (hands-on) took place. The value of these services that UW-Extension provides is significant in Buffalo County. Motion by Mr. Black to review the notes from the meeting and each member of the Committee to respond individually by February 23, 2017 at 5:00pm CST. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

UW-Extension Agent Reports: Ms. Wood shared the 2017 Reality Check Student Record with the committee that outlines the individual profiles of all students engaged in the financial education experience. In 2017, Independence School District eleventh and twelfth graders will be participating for the first time. The event is March 30, 2017 at Mondovi High School.

Ms. Lisowski spoke about her recent leadership and partnership for the 8th grade day sponsored by the Buffalo County Partnership Council. She discussed the use of Youth Risk Behavior Surveys to address risk behaviors for young people and families across Buffalo County utilizing the use of protective factors. The coalition's programs are fully grant funded and utilize regional and local guest speakers/experts.

Mr. Duley provided his Agent report on one area of programming, alternative crops in Buffalo County. Research conducted at Arlington Research Station has clearly shown that including a 3rd crop into a rotation (corn/soybeans), such as a small grains or hay has positive production and input effects on all three crops. With the decline of the dairy industry in Buffalo County, alternatives other than hay are in need of study. Research on barley will continue in 2017 and a quality oat trial may also be included. Industrial hemp may be a crop that is included in county trials in the near future if legislation is adopted at the state level to allow.

Review/Discussion /Action - Set next meeting date and time: The next meeting was set for 7:45am on Monday, April 3, 2017.

Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda: None

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Black, second by Mr. Smith to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Lisowski
Buffalo County 4-H Youth Development Educator