

Draft
Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Agriculture and Extension Education Committee

Date of Meeting: March 6, 2018

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date March 7, 2018

Members present: Mr. Don Black, Mr. David Danzinger (via phone), and Mr. Dennis Bork
Others present: Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Pat Malone, Ms. Annie Lisowski, Ms. Mary Wood, Mr. Carl Duley, Mr. DeWayne Snobl, Ms. Marie Ritscher, and Ms. Roxane Weisenbeck

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 a.m. by acting chair, Mr. Bork.

Certify Open Meeting requirements have been met by posting and notification: Open meeting requirements have been met by posting and notification.

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: There were no members of the public present to comment on agenda items.

Discussion/Action on DNR Turkey Donation Program: Mr. Snobl updated the committee on the DNR's turkey donation program. It is structured much like the DNR's deer donation program for food pantries. He is concerned about finding any processors willing to participate in the program. If the County wishes to participate, Mr. Snobl will set up the program. Motion by Mr. Black, second by Mr. Bork to not participate in the turkey program in 2018. Motion carried.

Discussion on DNR Deer Donation Program: Deer program participation in this area of the state continues but at a flat rate. No action is needed since the committee agreed to participate last year.

Review/Discussion/Action – Agriculture Intern: Mr. Duley updated the committee on a couple of research projects that are available for an agricultural intern to work on this summer. The money to cover the costs would be drawn from the Cover Crop grant, the money from Dairyland Power, and the Barley grant. There is no need for additional county funding. The intern would work on the projects listed. Motion by Mr. Bork second by Mr. Black to approve the hiring of an agricultural intern. Motion carried.

Update on status of hiring interns for 4H/Youth Development Program: Ms. Lisowski provided an update on the hiring of the 4H/Youth interns. Two open positions were posted in early February. Most of the interns are returning from previous years. There will actually be nine student hires.

Update on status of Roxane's job description and grade change: Ms. Hansen updated the committee on the progress of Ms. Weisenbeck's position. The changes in the position description have been approved. The HR committee felt there was not enough information available to

change her current grade. They will revisit the decision in six months. In the meantime, Ms. Weisenbeck will be collecting data on her work.

Review/Discussion/Action on status of the county's extra money and our proposal to the Dean's leadership team regarding support of Latino educational efforts with Trempealeau County: The committee discussed the proposal to fund a position to support educational efforts in the area in Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties (Arcadia and Independence) with a large Latino population. At this point, it looks like the barrier is most likely the state. The Associate Dean supports the concept but they seem to be coming up against budget constraints. One alternative the committee discussed was using the budgeted money to increase the hours Ms. Ruff is available to work with 4-H. This would free Ms. Lisowski's time to do more youth development education with underserved populations. If we did this for a year, we would have a better idea about the benefits of this effort to our youth population. Motion by Black second by Danzinger to approve using the .2 FTE funding in the budget to increase Ms. Ruff's appointment and amend the 136 contract appropriately. Carried.

The committee also discussed the reimbursement check for \$4829 that UW-Extension is scheduled to receive from the State. In previous years, any reimbursement was credited against the amount billed under the 133 contract. This is no longer the policy under the 136 contract. Now the county will receive a reimbursement check if the county has credit remaining. The group discussed what might be done with this money. What does county policy allow? How can the money support educational programs in the county? If UW-Extension can retain the money we could use it to add another day to Ms. Ruff's employment freeing up even more of Ms. Lisowski's time. Motion by Black second by Danzinger to recommend that we go to the Finance Committee and request that we use the \$4829 to increase Ms. Ruff's hours. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action – Fair changes associated with cooperating with Pepin County: Mr. Duley updated the committee about Fair changes associated with cooperating with Pepin County. The changes are going smoothly. There will be a meeting in March for both counties' staff to practice using the software. A Pepin County resident was elected to the Buffalo County Fair Board.

Review/Discussion/Action - Memorandum of Understanding between Buffalo County Agricultural Fair Association, Inc. and Buffalo County: The MOU between the Buffalo County Board and the Ag Fair Association is complete. No action has been taken on the MOU between UW-Extension and the Fair Association. Ms. Hansen and Mr. Duley will discuss next steps.

Review and approve vouchers including WACEC dues: Motion by Black second by Danzinger to approve paying the \$50.00 for the WACEC voucher. Carried.

Review/Discussion – Area 9 meeting on February 28, 2018: Ms. Malone provided a brief update on the Area 9 meeting. They worked on setting area priorities. She will send out the minutes when they are complete and go through a prioritization process with the committee at their next meeting.

UW-Extension Reports:

Educators provided updates on their programming.

- Ms. Lisowski discussed her 4-H Afterschool program at C-FC school. She also discussed the sexting educational intervention program she is conducting in partnership with Mondovi police and the Mondovi School. She is offering it to other schools, and C-FC has requested the program.
- Ms. Wood highlighted her on-going programming with the CJCC and incarcerated populations. She is busy getting ready for Reality Check.
- Ms. Ritscher updated the committee on her work on FoodWise in Buffalo County.
- Mr. Duley highlighted his research on using dry scrubber material as a soil additive. They have had a number of positive results, but they have not seen a yield increase yet. He is also working on looking at the impact of nitrogen levels under chicken coops. He will be sending reports out to the committee members.

Review/Discussion - nEXT Generation Update: Performance reviews are due from all educators by March 31, 2018. Plans of work are due from all educators by April 30, 2018.

Next AEEC Committee Meeting: April 9, 2018, at 7:45 a.m.

Public comments not regarding Agenda items: No public comments.

Adjournment: There being no comments on non-agenda items, Bork declared the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Malone
Area Extension Director