

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
AGRICULTURAL & EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Monday, January 8, 2018

Supervisor Stillman called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

1. The meeting was properly announced.
2. Members present: Duaine Stillman, Mike Hofberger, Merlin Gentz, Joe Mueller, and Patrick Laughrin. Also present: Tami Gasch; Catherine Neiswender, UW-Extension Area 10 Director; Jeremy Hanson, Agriculture Instructor Fox Valley Technical College; Randy Tenpas, Agriculture Department Chair Fox Valley Technical College.
3. Supervisor Stillman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Moved by Supervisor Mueller and seconded by Supervisor Hofberger to approve the agenda for the January 8, 2018, Ag & Extension Education Committee meeting.
5. Moved by Supervisor Gentz and seconded by Supervisor Laughrin to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2017, Ag & Extension Education Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Public Participation - none
7. Report of Committee Members
  - a. Reports of official meetings held since the last Agriculture & Extension Education Committee meeting
    - Supervisor Stillman shared about the Delightfully Chilton and the organizations that participated.
  - b. Upcoming Events
    - February 6-7 legislative meetings, Supervisor Hofberger requested that Supervisor Gentz set some appointments ahead of time; Supervisor Laughrin is also attending and looking to meet with Gordon Hintz in the finance committee.
    - Supervisor Mueller mentioned the Fox Cities Exhibition Center open house.
8. Communications - none
9. Items for Action or Discussion
  - a. Agricultural services in Calumet County, cooperation between FVTC and UW-Extension

Supervisor Gentz introduced Randy Tenpas and Jeremy Hanson from Fox Valley Technical College and commented on how important it is that we work together to serve the county.

Randy explained that there have been wonderful relationships with UWEX and the Technical College and that they meet annually about programs and missions.

Ag education strength at FVTC is in farm business production management, using credit and program-based education. The farmer pays for credits, it is in classroom and on the farm, and the student graduates with a degree.

Their on-campus programs have really grown and been a focus. The regional centers are the strength, as it keeps students close to home.

Ag department has 18 staff members, 3 farm business production management, working with 140-150 farm units. The program consists of an annual three credit class over a 12 month program that runs June through May. The program cost is \$400. They have evening classes and monthly afternoon sessions. Jeremy also spends 12 hours in individual instruction with each farm enrolled to meet their specific needs on a wide variety of topics outside of the curriculum. Program runs for 6 years. There are four required courses and four electives to choose two from. The USDA FSA requires beginning farmers (under 10 years' experience) taking a loan from them to take this course. Ninety percent of students are not part of the FSA requirement. Many students come by referral, often from the UWEX Ag Educator.

Cow College is an example of how FVTC and UWEX have worked together to provide trainings for both audiences. Tractor Safety classes for youth ages 12-16 is another area.

FVTC does not focus on research. They utilize the research from the University specialists and implement it into their programs. The strength of local agriculture education programs is based on a strong relationship between the local UW-Extension educators and FVTC educators.

Recommend when new educator is hired that he/she meet with Jeremy and with the Chilton Regional Center staff.

- b. Tami Gasch, Interim 4-H Youth Development Educator - UW-Extension website presence/social media:  
The committee was interested in learning more about how Calumet UWEX utilizes social media. Tami provided an overview of the Calumet County UW-Extension Facebook pages and websites. They are used for promoting position openings, event promotions, and to share daily activities, tips for various users, photos of activities etc. Question and answer discussion about how Facebook works and how to use it for communications and promotions.
- c. Family Living Program transition:  
Because County Administrator Romenesko was not in attendance, this item will be moved to the next meeting's agenda. A copy of the Family Living Educator exit report was provided to the committee.

#### 10. Report of Department

- a. Catherine Neiswender, UW-Extension Area 10 Director
  - Agriculture Educator position status update - We have screened applicants and have preliminary interviews next week. Depending on the outcome, final interviews will be held the week of January 22 or January 29.
  - State contract update - Updated contract is awaiting County Administrator signature.
  - WACEC membership - WACEC invoice for 2018 membership was submitted for payment. Payment comes out of the County Board budget.

11. Set next meeting date: The next meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee will be held on February 12, 2018, at 10:30 am. The committee wants to invite Cathy Sandeen to the February 12 meeting and an invitation to sturgeon spearing on February 10. Supervisor Stillman and Supervisor Mueller will be absent.

#### 12. Adjourn

Supervisor Laughrin moved to adjourn and Supervisor Mueller seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 pm.