

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
AGRICULTURAL & EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
Monday, August 13, 2018

Chairman Gentz called the meeting to order at 10:30 am

1. The meeting was properly announced.
2. Members present: Duaine Stillman, Merlin Gentz, Mike Hofberger, and Pat Laughrin.  
Excused: Joe Mueller  
Also present: Tami Gasch, Interim 4-H Youth Development Educator; Amber O'Brien, Agriculture Extension Educator; Catherine Neiswender, UW-Extension Area 10 Director; and Todd Romenesko, County Administrator
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Moved by Supervisor Stillman and seconded by Supervisor Hofberger to approve the agenda for the August 13, 2018, Ag & Extension Education Committee meeting. Motion carried 4-0.
5. Moved by Supervisor Laughrin and seconded by Supervisor Hofberger to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2018, Agriculture & Extension Education Committee meeting. Motion carried 4-0.
6. Public Participation – none
7. Report of Committee Members
  - a. Reports of official meetings held since the last Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting
    - Supervisor Laughrin reported on his attendance at the State Land and Water Board Meeting in Madison last week and how the outreach around reaching taxpayers in the county.
    - Supervisor Hofberger reported that Amber has met with both the Land and Water and Planning/Zoning committees. He appreciated that very much. He also reported on attending a meeting of County Conservationists.
    - Chairman Gentz reported that he believes Amber is doing a great job in the county.
    - Supervisor Stillman mentioned that there used to be a Supervisor's blog to communicate with taxpayers. Administrator Romenesko mentioned that this is an appropriate conversation for the county board level and the county strategic plan.
    - Supervisor Laughrin requested that reports for meetings attended are reported on in detail to the county board.
    - Supervisor Stillman attended Farm Technology Days this year.
    - Supervisor Hofberger reported on someone else who attended a WCA meeting and their reaction to how the meeting went.
  - b. Upcoming Events – none reported
8. Communications – none
9. Items for Action or Discussion
  - a. Waushara Resolution 28-06-18, Opposing a Reduction in Services and Funding

Chairman Gentz provided an overview of the resolution. Gentz met with their county board chair to discuss this. Waushara then created a resolution and reached out to adjacent counties for support. Chairman Gentz reviewed the feelings of the committee over the past two years with the changes to the structure. He expressed that the current situation in UWEX is now much better with new leadership and educators. He expressed that he wants to build back the office. Chairman Gentz provided a draft of a letter that he would like to send to UW Extension that expresses how upset he is on the past two years, but also has a positive tone. He expressed that

he does not want the resolution to go to the county board. He suggested that he doesn't want to support the resolution because it has a negative tone, but would like to send a letter with a positive tone. Supervisor Laughrin suggested making sure this is discussed at the WCA meeting. Chairman Gentz also mentioned the downsizing of the support staff time and the office space. Supervisor Hofberger asked a question about the ag educator situation in Green Lake County, and also asked general questions about co-funded positions.

Supervisor Stillman moved, and Supervisor Hofberger seconded, for the committee to accept the Waushara resolution and put it on file but not move it forward to the county board. Motion carried 4-0.

The next step is for the committee members to review the draft letter and provide feedback to Chairman Gentz prior to the next meeting. Gentz also requested that Administrator Romenesko, County Board Chair Connors, and Area Director Neiswender provide input on the next draft at the September meeting.

b. Amber O'Brien, Agriculture Educator -

- June and July Activity Summer - Amber provided an update on her past activities which included Sundae on the Farm, collaboration with FVTC on Tractor Safety, Forage Council Field Day in August, NE Winter Wheat Profitability Meeting, Farm Tech Days, New Seeding Alfalfa Research with Kevin Jarek-UW Ext. Outagamie, meeting with local attorneys to discuss farm succession/transition.
- Overview of upcoming ag programming, which will include a manure response educational program with LWCD; Farming Forward - financial literacy with young farmers to help ensure success; Calumet County Fair, as well as mentioned upcoming opportunity with a national conference in June 2019.

c. Tami Gasch, Interim 4-H Youth Development Educator

- 4-H Outreach: Participating in a variety of county events to spread the word about 4-H programs our county offers, including Sundae on the Farm booth, teaching at Progressive Ag Safety Day, teaching at Brillion Library programs, booth at Brillion's National Night Out, hosting Calumet County 4-H Opportunity Fair, working to establish a 4-H Ambassadors for the teen leaders in the county.
- State is requiring all clubs to set an expanding access goal to improve the outreach, by all counties. Tami held a meeting with clubs to explain that means being open and providing access and opportunity to vulnerable populations which include low income households, children and youth of color, legal immigrants and their children, and children and youth with (dis)abilities.
- Tami also provided a brief update on 4-H camp that was held with Outagamie County. A question was asked about when 4-H could come before the county board. It was suggested that the September meeting would be best, or it would have to wait until after the New Year.

10. Report of Department

a. Catherine Neiswender, UW-Extension Area 10 Director

- 2019 Budget overview - Neiswender provided a brief overview of the process for 2019. Our proposed budget will include funding for two co-funded positions (ag and 4H/youth), a portion of Connie's appointment, as well as operational expenses to cover travel, educational programming, and professional development.
- Communications from Karl Martin and chancellor Blank - copies of two communications were provided to Extension Committee members. Karl Martin, Dean of Cooperative Extension, sent a letter to county committee chairs, executives and administrators, and Chancellor Blank sent a welcome email to all cooperative extension staff after we officially moved under UW Madison on July 1.
- Neiswender has also provided input to the ongoing restructure of the third floor office spaces. UWEX is now proposed to be at the end of the hallway. Neiswender encouraged the committee to also follow this process and provide feedback into the process where appropriate.

11. Set Next Meeting Date: The next meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee will be held on Monday, September 10, at 10:30 am.

12. Adjourn

Supervisor Stillman moved to adjourn and Supervisor Laughrin seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Neiswender  
UW-Extension Area 10 Director