

Agriculture & Extension Committee Meeting
Kewaunee County Administration Committee Room
September 3rd, 2014
Minutes

Call to Order:

Chairman, Tom Romdenne called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Roll Call:

Members Included: Tom Romdenne, Bob Garfinkel, Ron Paider, Gary Paape, Claire Thompson, Community Development Educator, Aerica Bjurstrom, Agriculture Agent and Jill Jorgensen, 4-H Youth Development Educator.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Ron Paider and seconded by Bob Garfinkel to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Review/Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Bob Garfinkel to approve the minutes and seconded by Ron Paider. Motion carried.

Citizen Input: None

Educators' Report:

A review and discussion followed regarding the progress that was made and future projects. Complete written reports are attached.

Agent Contracts:

This is a contract with the University of Wisconsin and the County of Kewaunee, regarding salary payments from July 1st, 2014 thru June 30th, 2015. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Ron Paider and seconded by Gary Paape to approve. Motion carried.

Budget 2015:

Claire Thompson presented the committee with the 2015 budget proposals; which included two different formats. One format included a zero percent increase and the other a .5 percent decrease. The decrease was to remove the Fog Horn; an information publication, postage and travel expenses. These proposals were discussed in detail with input from both the committee and educators.

A motion was made by Gary Paape and seconded by Ron Paider to approve and forward to the Finance Committee a zero percent budget increase. This decision was due to not removing the publication of the Fog Horn, postage required necessary to keep residents informed on very important issues that change monthly. This paper includes 4-H, education issues and important farm related information. The travel expense covers meetings, training, education with Kewaunee County residents, one on one farm related problems, 4-H education at many sites and keeping the public informed regarding the Farm Technology Days in 2017. Motion carried with a vote of 4 yes and 0 no.

Overtime: None

Travel Expense: None

Approval of Bills:

Gary Paape moved to approve all bills presented and Bob Garfinkel seconded. Motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Date:

After discussion, the next meeting date was set for October 8th, 2014 at 4:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Kewaunee County Administration Center, Committee Room.

A short meeting will be conducted and the committee will then meet with the Door County Agriculture & Extension Committee at the 2017 Farm Technology site.

Adjourn:

A motion was made to adjourn by Ron Paider and seconded by Tom Romdenne. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Gary Paape
Secretary

Aerica Bjurstrom
Agriculture Agent
Prepared for September 3, 2014

Farm Technology Days – Attended Farm Technology Days in Portage County with an executive committee member. We stayed for the daily wrap up meeting with current and future host counties in attendance. I spent some time with the farm show manager, took the dairy tour, and worked at the UW-Extension Applied Technology Center.

The Kewaunee County executive committee is in place and a committee chair will be selected soon. In addition, host farm applications are due September 15 and the host farm will be selected on October 7. The county dates and logo should also be determined by mid fall.

Epsilon Sigma Phi – I am the current state secretary of Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP), a professional improvement organization for current and retired Extension professionals around the country. Retired Family Living Educator, Mary Novak (current state President) and I traveled to Madison for the annual summer meeting and picnic. I was selected by ESP to attend the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference in April 2015 and 2016.

Program Planning – Corn silage dry down is set for September 9 at Rio Creek Feed Mill and Olson ARE Farm in Door County on September 23. Last year was the first year I was able to secure an on-site sampling process from Dairyland Laboratories in DePere and I was able to also do that this year. At the time the dates were set corn was drying down quite quickly, but two weeks of intermittent heavy rains has slowed that process and the September 9 date will probably be on the early side for this event, but it will still serve value so farmers can have a baseline for where their corn is in the drying and maturing process. We are planning a middle manager program for people on farms who have recently been promoted to a new role of managing people rather than animals. The meeting will focus on personalities, conflict, people management, and organization. The program will be held at three locations, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, and Wausau. The program will be available in English and Spanish. I am also planning a state-wide Animal Well-being conference in April. Dr. Temple Grandin will be a featured speaker and is available to UW-Extension for no cost since she is speaking in the area on another topic. Dr. Grandin is a world leading authority on animal behavior and well-being. The last time UW-Extension had her speak at a similar meeting, over 350 people attended from four different states.

Kewaunee County Agriculture & Extension Committee

Renee Koenig, Family Living Educator, UW-Extension

Activities Report for September 3, 2014

Health Literacy Committee – On August 14th I participated in the county's Back To School event. More than 250 children are served annually. This year, I developed a survey to ask the parents about health literacy concerns related to safe medication use. According to the FDA, about 30% to 50% of those who use medicines don't use them as directed. This causes more doctor visits, hospital stays, lost wages, and changed prescriptions. All this costs Americans as much as \$76.6 billion each year. Our committee will be analyzing the results of the survey later this month.

Affordable Care Act – In collaboration with an agency called Partners for Community Development, Inc., I assisted low-income families access health insurance through BadgerCare or the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace. I also presented health education material that emphasized the need to know the difference between primary care provider services and emergency department services. Avoiding unnecessary ED visits helps reduce the burden of health care costs for everyone.

Home Alone Program – I am continuing to learn new technology to update our Home Alone curriculum and create web-based training for parents and their children.

Women in Ag – Along with Aerica Bjurstrom, I am participating in planning efforts to explore opportunities for women in agriculture to connect and promote wellness.

Strong Bones – Strong Bones is an evidence-based strength training program developed by studies at Tufts University. This exercise program improves bone density, reduces falls among elderly, improves arthritis symptoms, increases flexibility and can benefit mental health. I am collaborating with the Aging & Disability Resource Center and local school district to offer the classes this fall. Research shows that healthier citizens are more likely to be engaged citizens.

Kewaunee County Agriculture and Extension Committee
Activities Report for August, 2014
Claire Thompson, Community Development Educator
Kewaunee County Cooperative Extension

Local Food System Economy:

- Continued planning and provided technical support to a new entrepreneur at the Farm Market Kitchen in Algoma. This entrepreneur will be producing 26 products at the FMK starting this fall, 2014. I have also been providing education, facilitation and technical assistance to the FMK board and staff to ensure that this business partnership and launch is successful.
- Implemented needs assessment survey of area producers for the SLO Farmers Co-op to determine feasibility and next steps in the strategic planning process. In addition, I continued facilitation and planning support to the Wisconsin Local Food Network to implement a Farm to Hospital program in Northeast Wisconsin in cooperation with the SLO Farmers Co-op and NWTC. This project will continue into 2015.

Organizational Development:

- Provided support to Algoma Elementary School and YMCA in implementing the final summer school super swim weeks for Algoma students. 75 children participated in the August programs.

Economic Development:

- Provided business planning education and facilitation to four entrepreneurs considering opening businesses in Kewaunee County.

Other:

- Participated in planning session to support UWEX CNRED Program Advisory Team efforts.
- Administrative duties associated with Department Head role.