

MEETING MINUTES
Ashland County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting
April 9, 2015 9:30am
Ashland County Extension Office

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Ortman at 9:32 am

Members Present: Charlie Ortman, Kathy Schutte, George Mika, and Ken Lundquist

Others Present: Tom Wojciechowski, Pete Russo, Tom Fratt, Doug Liphart, Amy Tromberg, Kathy Beeksm

Excused: Norm Couture

Approval of Minutes

Pete moved to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2015 meeting. Ken seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comments - None

Agent Reports

- **Written reports submitted and agents in attendance gave a highlight of their work:**

<u>CNRED</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership program, only 1 class session and banquet left; past programs were at AADC and Dale spoke. Other activities included a tour of Xcel and a discussion with Janet Bewley. • Kathy B, Dale Kupczyk, Laura Harnish from Ashland County Health and Human Services, and Tom W. are working on daycare needs. Compiled survey from last fall, Haley put together a spreadsheet of providers in the area. Monday they had a meeting with a few providers. Areas of difficulty/inadequate services focus on infants, part-time, summer. • UW- Small Business Development Center, hired a new director who starts on Monday, Andrew Donahue (he has gotten 1 degree from UW-Superior and lives in the Duluth/Superior area) we will be working with him in the future.
<u>4-H & Youth</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Took 4 Delegates to Superior Days in Madison, youth article in Daily Press. • Held Mid-Winter Getaway, over 50 local youth signed up and had 16 volunteers run program. • Applications and interviews coming up for New Teen Court panelists. • AWARE core team – aware grant, more mental health services available to youth, mental health 1st aid / 1st responders.
<u>Family Living / WNEP</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just wrapped up 2 Building Strong Families classes in the Ashland County Jail with 18 signed-up, also sent newsletters to families and started discussions etc.

Handouts included: Tom W. Ashland County Comprehensive Plan Review and Update & Farmland Preservation Plan Review and Update and draft of 2014 Annual Report.

1. Comprehensive Planning Review

- Tom W. & Tom F. met this week, put together the Ashland County Comprehensive Plan Review and Update sheet (see handout).

- Tom F. got DATCP grant, and 99% sure on Coastal Management grant these will help with Farm Land Preservation Plan update and some on Comprehensive Plan. \$50,000 with 2 grants and match against each other for much of it. Also help pay for Todd, who works with Tom F., who will work on GIS portion of project, and an intern, possibly Haley, for 20 hours per week over the summer to update all of the numbers and data from the old plan. Tom F. clarified that only 1 grant can use money to develop ordinances.
- Pete to appoint an oversight committee for the Comprehensive Plan. Folks from a variety of the major committees for the County. Planned for a 10 person advisory committee with 1 or 2 citizen representatives. Pete would like a recommendations.
- Charlie read the 'plan for plan review' through, thinks it is a good plan and timeline. Consensus of the committee is to move ahead with this plan.
- Tom W., Tom F. & Jeff will work on developing a committee, make some recommendations to Pete and make sure all of our bases are covered. Put Oversight Committee on next agenda.

2. Update on CAFO Issue

- Tom F. & Charlie gave quick update. Discussing a draft ordinance at LCC meeting tomorrow. Have been working with Cindy Zach at Health and Human Services. Want to work with County farmers and get information from large scale / possible future CAFO's from Tom F. and Jason and invite them to look over the draft ordinance.

10:37am Pete & Tom F. left

3. FRTEP New Hire

- Doug reported that applications were reviewed, interview committee was half UWEX and half Bad River tribal members. Hired new Bad River FRTEP Coordinator, Joy Schelble – very excited to have her on board. Joy already has good relationships and working with many agencies in the area. A lot of potential, Tribal Chairman Wiggins is very pleased with this hire.
- Main focus of FRTEP grant is to promote, increase and create opportunity for kids to harvest traditional foods in traditional ways, also preserve and prepare that food, and through that to reduce juvenile diabetes, this includes components of physical activities, older kids working with younger kids, adult volunteers, and a cultural connection which increases kid's resilience.
- Joy Schelble starts Monday, May 11th, 2015.

4. Energy Independence Updates, Next Steps

- Tom and Charlie gave a presentation at the public property and law enforcement committee meeting this week. Showed image of courthouse with solar panels on top, identified energy usage in this building, and what it would take to replace with solar panels, and what our return on investment would be. Jeff said the roof on the courthouse needs to be replaced, a good time to look at the solar panel options.

- What grants can we get? What will Excel do? Talk with local electric businesses / AADC/ Mr. Donahue about a local business being able to install solar panels etc. Currently no one in the area can do this. At least ask local first before going out of area.

5. Board Retreat or Other Training Approach

- In the past the County Board Retreat has only been a once a year training. Charlie had an idea to look at doing a 5 minute topic training at each County Board meeting. Questions arose such as if Ag & Ex gets 5 minutes every County Board meeting will every committee want the same?
- George wants to keep the Board Retreat, he thinks it is a way to learn and create comradery.
- Tom W. needs a month to pull together and get word out about the retreat. Possibly look at doing during the fall. Put Board Retreat on the agenda for next meeting. Bring ideas for topic and/or location.

6. Capital Connections, April 30th

- This is a one day UW-Extension Lobbying event in Madison, Thursday, April 30th. If any board members will attend Kathy B. will meet them there, she will have to travel from a meeting in Appleton. Attendees would have to drive down Wednesday, stay overnight and come back Thursday.
- George feels strongly about having our voices heard, especially the Northern areas. Kathy S., Ken and George all interested. Get full details, talk to Pete for approval, look into carpooling, and then let Amy/Kathy B. know. Kathy B. will make appointments to see Janet Bewley and Beth Meyers and register board members too.

7. Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD) – April 12-15 Topics

- Charlie is going to PILD on Saturday. He will bring our draft UW-Extension 2014 annual report. He will highlight as many important things of ours as he can.

8. Approve Vouchers

The list of paid vouchers was reviewed and signed. George moved to approve the vouchers for payment. Kathy S. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. Other Business – 2014 Draft of Annual Report

- Still need Jason photos, captions, and leverage dollars.
- On Page 4- George suggested getting a better tractor picture from Matt.
- Have final document done for next meeting.

10. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, May 27th at 9:30am

Meeting adjourned at 11:35am

Respectfully submitted by Amy Tromberg