

MEETING MINUTES
Ashland County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting
July 7, 2015 9:30am
Ashland County UW-Extension Office

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Ortman at 9:30 am

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

Others Present: Tom Wojciechowski, Doug Liphart, Amy Tromberg, Joy Schelble, Haley Hoffman, Jason Fischbach, Kathy Beeksma and Tom Fratt

Excused: Norman Couture

Approval of Minutes

Ken moved to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2015 meeting. Kathy S. 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"> • Tom W. is working with AADC on strategic planning, had their 3rd meeting today. • Continuing to meet on broadband issue, planning a broadband event on cyber security for businesses in October. • Handed out the final draft of the Ashland County UWEX 2014 annual report. • July Clean Sweep collection is on July 23rd in Butternut and Mellen – Kathy S. help get word out in Marengo – Jason, Ken & George help get information to farmers.
<u>4-H & Youth</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrote a grant with 2 teachers from Our Lady of the Lake and Ashland Public School District to put cross country skiing in the schools. • Gave out 4-H scholarships & Teen Court honors to graduating seniors. • 4-H Summer Camp coming up this weekend, Thur –Sun, and all the planning this entails. • Had a planning meeting with Rezberries leader, have Bad River youth at camp for 1st year! • Planning with Alison, BIRT coordinator, regarding at risk youth - alternatives for the rush, other activities and life skills.
<u>Family Living / WNEP</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie LaPointe, WNEP Educator has been doing great work! Participating with Joy on Take a Hike, working at Bad River and with senior sites this summer. Building great relationships with all agencies and audiences she is working. • WNEP work – fiscal grant for 2016 is completed, \$25,000 decrease in funding for 2017. With Ann’s retirement and working with the budget 2 years out, the new hire will be for 60% FTE year round, 24 hours per week. Goal is to hire by Oct 1, working with Madison and hopefully they put out position ad this month. • Bad River currently has a lot of grant applications in progress including topics such as re-entry from jail/prison, nets of support, Fatherhood grant, etc. and are looking to UWEX for support and rigorous evaluation to keep funding. • Jail needs are still high, last CJC meeting Ashland County had 59 people in jail with a high percentage related to drugs. • Had annual review which is a good time to reflect, Kathy B. is only 50% Family Living. She is looking at evaluation focuses and community needs, putting time where the needs are, and planning for the rest of the year.

<u>Hort/ Ag</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason reported on high tunnels: working on a marketing plan, selling at farmers market, trying to expand the number of people eating fresh vegetables. The first market for the high tunnels at the local schools are parents and teachers.
<u>FRTEP Bad River 4-H</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many upcoming programs. Last week held a group event with high school youth, gathered greens, hiked, had a local lunch with fish, rice and greens, etc. • Just returned from the Childhood Obesity Conference, thinks our area is ahead of the curve, innovative way to engage Pre-K & Kindergarten age kids with more active play, “modern” hopscotch – idea for Bad River Head Start. Also of interest was the research based tie between stress and obesity. • Opportunity to work with Jason at the Ashland Middle School High Tunnel – goal to bring a high tunnel or two to Bad River. Bad River is submitting a grant, Joy met grant reviewer at conference. • Participated in a Bad River Health Fair, she was # 492 on the sign-in sheet, important networking and borrowed the Iron County blender bike for her station at fair. • Larger production garden out front of the Bad River Senior Center, eating fresh greens.

Handouts included: Final 2014 Annual Report & July Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste Collection Poster.

1. Comprehensive Planning Review – next steps

- Tom W. & Tom F. were out a lot during the month of June.
- Pete’s Oversight Committee was approved at the last County Board meeting.
- Next step is to set a meeting date and time with the Oversight Committee.
- Haley is working on background data and is about 95% done with the housing data.

2. CAFO Issue - any updates

- Jason reported that the Bayfield County Livestock Study Committee has been meeting every other week since April regarding Management Strategy Options.
- Each meeting is a specific topic: water, ground water, septic, and toured a dairy farm, with a goal of putting together for each topic a Findings of Fact document, surface water, then actions, then give findings to full County Board.
- On July 23rd there will be a farmer meeting at 10am in the Beniot Community Center, intended for Ashland & Bayfield dairy farmers. The Findings of Fact document will be presented to get local farmer feedback on what some of these options might look like.

There are 6 approaches they are considering for surface water:

1. No action – rely on existing regulations and the impaired waters process in the Clean Water Act if there is a problem.
2. Additional outreach education (Land Conservation office, etc.).
3. Additional outreach education and cost-share dollars.
4. Adopt additional regulations to mandate more aggressive risk management practices by farmers, such regulations could include: manure storage permitting regardless of farm size, 9-12 months of manure storage to accommodate missed spreading windows, nutrient and crop management plans that include multiple spreading windows during a calendar year, county-enforced concentrated flow area protections, adopt NR 151 agricultural runoff standards to allow for County enforcement (by County Land Conservation office).
5. Limit livestock density in a watershed with zoning districts to limit impacts of changes in nutrient mass balance and to mitigate against low compliance and/or enforcement capacity. Zoning options could include: exclude livestock facilities and/or manure spreading from shore land zones through zoning ordinance amendment OR only allow new livestock operations with 500 or more animal units in the A2 zoning district.

6. Set maximum phosphorus and bacterial loading allocations for each watershed and require new or expanding operations to acquire phosphorus and bacteria credits as a permit or license contingency. Can trade their phosphorus credits, goal to have no net increase in phosphorus, the landowners figure out who does what. Cap and trade phosphorus, an incentive to reduce phosphorus.
- PowerPoints from past presentations of the Bayfield County Large Scale Livestock Study Committee Presentation Series are available online, bayfield.uwex.edu.

Jason, Haley, Tom F. and Joy left

3. Energy Independence – report on discussion with Xcel

- Tom W. and Jeff had a conference call with the Community Connection program through Xcel Energy, which is planning on several community farms around WI and hoping to start construction next summer. These would be open to homeowners or businesses to have a 25 year lease on solar panels.
- Going through Xcel would not reduce our peak load, where as if we did our own solar panels the County would probably reduce our peak loads, which would greatly reduce costs.
- Bayfield Electric rolls credits over through-out the year, then at the end of the year they are gone. Xcel would pay for the credits at the end of the year.
- Found a new metric for sizing solar panels which shows that only 40-50 kw fit on our roof, the estimate before was 80 kw. Example given of a micro-brewery that put back to back solar panels facing east and west.
- Need to look into Midwest Energy Association (MEA), and a grant that would support designing a system and/or getting a consultant. Next step is to contact Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) regarding the Grow Solar program. Need continued research on numbers, selling carbon credits, kickbacks, etc.

4. Response to Homelessness

- Kathy B. responded to questions, rumors and grant inquiries about homelessness in Ashland County.
- There are different types of homelessness: transient homelessness, seasonal homeless with a route for when the weather is nice, single individuals who are homeless due to a number of issues, poverty, AODA etc. and a large number of homeless that are families – the challenge in identifying the issues and numbers is they are double housing, staying with friends, family etc. There is not one easy solution for each type of homelessness.
- Local community services include Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency, Inc. (NWCSA) which has HUD money for homeless and transitional, in the past NWCSA had shelters. NWCSA strategic planning includes a shelter and Kathy B. is working with them on the plan. Shelters are expensive, especially the insurance and there are safety concerns of neighbors/ location issues. New Day has a Women’s shelter for domestic violence etc.
- Transitional housing is one of the best ways to reduce homelessness, most of the transitional housing in Ashland County are in the Marengo trailer park. Homeless shelters can only let people stay there for 30 days, while transitional housing can be longer term, up to 15-18 months.
- Kathy B. is a part of the homeless committee, she is and has been linking people, including the Ashland Cares group. Currently she is representing the CJC at the homeless meetings. The homeless meetings are open to the public.

5. Ashland County Fair

- Tom W. met with Theresa Kummerow, the Bayfield County Fair Secretary, and was able to get budget tracking spreadsheets. Bayfield County does have staff for their fair, George commented that we have a lot of very passionate volunteers.
- Tom W. has done some research, and it would be very costly for the County to take it over or run the fair.
- George asked about gravel and nothing has been done yet. Kathy S. will talk to Pete about the gravel issue at the fairgrounds.
- Kathy S. reported on what has been done. The Fair has moved to the weekend of August 20th, off Labor Day weekend, shortened the number of days of the fair, and made it \$5 a day for Senior Citizens. They are planning a 5 day fair worth of events into 4 days. The carnival will be back again, the fair board says that if they don't have a carnival they won't have a fair, however this specific carnival contract only goes through this year.
- The next Ashland County board is meeting August 13th, Kathy S. and Ken are planning a presentation for the Fair's 120th anniversary.
- The Fair needs someone from the County Board to go to the meetings. Kathy S. has been attending meetings, check if she has been appointed to the Fair Committee.
- Tom W. is not perusing fair topics or research unless further asked.

6. Board Retreat – Tour – Planning Steps

- See how the July 23rd farmers meeting in Benoit goes, then plan according to the response. George & Charlie are planning to attend this meeting, Ken might attend too.

7. Approve Vouchers

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

8. Other business – none

9. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, August 5th at 1pm

Meeting adjourned at 12:42pm

Respectfully submitted by Amy Tromberg