

MEETING MINUTES
Ashland County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting
September 10, 2015 9:30am
Ashland County Extension Office

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Ortman at 9:31 am

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

Others Present: Tom Wojciechowski, Doug Liphart, Amy Tromberg, and Kathy Beeksma

Approval of Minutes

George moved to approve the minutes from the August 5, 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"> • Held annual Clean Sweep Collection in Ashland, had a steady flow of drop offs, lots of medications collected. • Interviewed 3 Northland student applicants for interns, they need internships to graduate. • State budget cuts will go into effect July 2016, open positions are being held open/ delayed etc. Looking at restructuring statewide, 4 million dollar cut.
<u>4-H & Youth</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with new Ashland Charter high school with youth development. • Took a 4-H Display to the school orientation, had a lot of new families interested in 4-H and made good connections. • Teen Court has had 2 or 3 cases each month this year, more steady than last year. The Teen Court panel is doing a great job! • Had Annual Review with Amy in her position as the Ashland County UWEX Office Assistant. • Upcoming is Doug's Tenure Review in January 2016.
<u>Family Living / WNEP</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gearing up for the Healthy WI Leadership Institute Grant regarding health ed in schools, a good community collaboration. • Continuing Strategic Planning with NWCSA. • Will be starting the Building Strong Families program in the jail again. • Trained in the Raising a Thinking Child Program and will be doing 9 weeks of sessions with the Ashland School District this fall, has support from the school with daycare etc. • WNEP Interviews, 5 candidates for first interviews on Sept 18th; Looking for a Board member to be on the final interview committee in early October.

Handouts included: Draft Broadband Resolution and Ashland County 4-H Fall Newsletter.

1. Comprehensive Plan & Farmland Preservation Plan Committee Report

- Tom W met with the Town of Morse, they are moving ahead.
- Planning a meeting for all town and village reps, end of September or early October, to let them know what is going on in regards to updating comprehensive plans and farm plans.
- The next committee meeting is September 23.

2. CAFO Issue - Any Updates

- Discussed past and future Bayfield County Large-Scale Livestock Study Committee Meetings.

3. Energy Independence – RFP Process

- Tom W put together a proposal to hire Chris LaForge to help develop a RFP for solar contractors, waiting until next Public Property meeting.
- Has examples of RFP's and making connections.
- Jeff is also putting in solar in the infrastructure needs.
- Charlie inquired about the Ashland County 25X25, and using the goals in the December 22, 2009 plan for WI energy independence.
- Tom has been talking with various folks from the 2008-2009 energy planning group to set up a meeting to see where they stand and what support is out there.

4. Ashland County Fair – Review and Next Steps

- Volunteers are doing so many things, and could always use more volunteers.
- Horse shoe pitching event: shared a photo from this year. Want to get it on the schedule for next year. Kathy S. thanked members for attending. Maybe a corn eating contest next year too. Have Ag & Ex committee be more visible there.
- Ticket Sale Reconciliation Forms: Kathy B, Tom, Amy & Kathy S worked on a Fair ticket sales form. Kathy B and Kathy S worked at the Fair with the treasurer and gate volunteers. It was a learning experience and will need to be reviewed and adjusted for next year. Next step will be to have a small group meet and create recommendations for our committee and give to Fair board.
- 4-H review: good comments on the date change, moving it to before school starts was good for families with kids. Positive feedback, it might take a year or two to get on people's radar/ calendar. George said the steer sale was awesome! Kathy S. said the pie auction was a fun event with large success. Ken thought the exhibits were very nice, great photos.
- Forest & Rec has grant money, 3 to 1 – Fair board can apply for money in January, up to \$3,000. Talk with Land and Highway about helping with parking area and roads.
- Future items: Gravel for parking lot, get Recreation grant from Forestry & Recreation committee, look at land conservation any money for conservation project / driveway/ entry; Emer Shields and highway department with Pete put in budget item for upgrading low areas. Charlie asked George to survey and see how much gravel would be needed (Pete & Emer are looking at this probably too).
- Put on April & May agenda's again for next year.

5. WACEC/WCA 2015 Meeting. Sept 20-22 in La Crosse. WI

- Handed out packets that were mailed to attendees, Amy got everyone registered, and submitted County voucher. Doug got hotel registrations for Sunday and Monday nights. George is driving van with 4 board members.
- Check about getting a night's stay at the Bad River Casino for auction donated.
- Board members will look into other donated auction items.

Doug left for afternoon programing at 11:36am

6. Broadband – Suggested Resolution

- Tom handed out draft broadband resolution and explained that CenturyLink took the Connect American Fund (CAF) funds, public support might bring our need to the top of the list. Will also have as an agenda item for the Town meetings on Comp Plan.
- Charlie read resolution out loud– Kathy S moved to approve and send to full county board. Ken seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Cyber Security event, primarily for businesses, coming up on Oct 14th – IT specialist from Bayfield County will put on a program at the NGLVC, 6pm-8pm.
- Center for Broadband Education with UWEX putting on an event this winter.

7. Board Retreat – Tour – Planning Steps

- Plan event for mid or late October, talk with Tom F about dates. Once date set, send Save the Date cards to County Board members.
- Would need a bus, Tom W will check with BART. Tour George’s son and neighbor’s projects and farms, then bus over to Fairgrounds for lunch.

8. Approve Vouchers

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

9. Other Business – None

10. Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, October 20th, 9:30am

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 am

Respectfully submitted by Amy Tromberg