

MEETING MINUTES
Ashland County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting
June 30, 2016 9:00am
Ashland County Extension Office

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Ortman at 9:01am

Members Present: Norm Couture, George Mika, Martin Vitek, Kathy Schutte, and Charlie Ortman

Others Present: Amy Tromberg, Pete Russo, Tom Wojciechowski, Matt Cogger, Kathy Beeksma, Natalie Cotter, and Doug Liphart

Approval of Minutes

Martin moved to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2016 meeting. Pete seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comments – Charlie introduced Natalie Cotter, working with us this summer on the Ashland Comprehensive & Farmland Preservation Plan.

9. WACEC Report (moved to first agenda item)

- Charlie asked Tom W. to share the Shawno County UWEX PowerPoint from Jay Moynihan.
- Charlie interested in borrowing work done by UWEX colleagues to share with county board and other people in the community.
- Jay came at this from an economic development perspective, then partnered with family living. Looked at the question: To have good employees, what is one of the best indicators of a good employee? Answer was High School graduation, indicator for that is 3rd grade reading scores, and indicator for that is vocabulary at age 2.
- Resilient Communities slide, looking at it holistically across program areas. Collaborate between community stakeholders for mutual benefit.
- Lots of research, and nationwide studies references. Slide with chart that shows return on dollar of investment in kids.
- Discussion ensued. Would be good to see what is being done in our area already, through the Sheriff's Department, Health and Human Services etc.
- This topic is on the schedule for the next full board meeting, give a presentation to county board and a few invited guests (Kathy S. would like to invite the mayor) then somehow take it to the community.
- Charlie would like to get this into the comp plan somehow.
- Kathy S. said that this needs to start with the Birth to Three program, Head Starts etc. Charlie said that the birth to 5 stimulation has to be from other humans.
- George said at WACEC they also took a bus tour to a farm incubator with the University of Wisconsin.

Pete left at 9:25am

Agent Reports

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

<u>Hort</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Almost done with 2nd class of Master Gardeners, have 21 students.• Planning Tractor safety class week of July 11-18, half day of classes then tractor safety driving test last day at Northland Lawn and Sport.• Was in Bayfield last week, so far, looks like a good fruit year.
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<u>Family Living / WNEP</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing financial education and co-parenting classes. Trying the one-on-one parenting coaching class, constantly re-evaluating. Kathy B. is part of the NELD group this year, already been to Chicago & Costa Rica, will be going to Washington DC in July for a week, meeting with Duffy & Johnson's offices. Five from WI going. Charlie asked for her to speak about the importance of Birth to 5. Just came back from a Healthy Lifestyle conference.
<u>CNRED</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended Economic Development conference in Glidden, Frank Kempf was a presenter, about 35 people attended. Discussion about how to get small business going in the area. The office will be undergoing a civil rights review in November. Tom W. participated in a conference call on it this past month. This will take a bit of prep time & we will have to present information and data on what we have been doing the last 5-6 years and how we have worked with underserved audiences.
<u>4-H</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doug was on the 4-H Western American Spirit Trip, got back yesterday, with 34 WI high school kids. Doug helped plan and organize this trip to 8 National Parks, included education & hands on education. Life changing experience for the kids. Planning & training for 4-H Summer Camp coming up July 8-10.

Handed out copies of Joy's agent report.
Martin left at 10am

1. Ashland County Fair Update and Parking

- Charlie will plan on going to a highway meeting, need 15 loads of gravel.
- George has a Land Conservation meeting tomorrow, will talk about it, finalize numbers and materials. George can bring his skid steer over. Look at getting a grid and textile.
- Sunday, Sept 4th, County Board Supervisors will have a horse shoe pitching contest at fair.

2. County Board Retreat Evaluation

- Charlie thought it was awesome. Kathy S. mentioned make sure location is easily accessible.
- 13 board members attended, George said it went fast because it was so interesting.
- Charlie & George future ideas – idea to have every department speak 5-30 minutes, one department per County Board Meeting, ask Pete about this.

3. Office Profile

- Amy showed the final Ashland County Office Profile document. This has been distributed to County Board members and county staff, helpful & informational.

4. Opportunities for Engaging Youth

a. Youth Outreach & b. Camp for Youth

- Nothing new to report.

c. Youth Involvement in County Government

- George asked if we could give youth members a per diem and if they could vote?
- Doug shared other examples of how youth are involved in county government. Examples: symbolic vote or vote on youth things. Charlie, asked about creating an "At-Large" youth position? Doug suggested finding out what all other at-large positions do in terms of voting, interviews or how they are selected and paid. Use a process already in place. Kathy S. liked idea of 2 kids, buddy system. Charlie recapped by saying the first step is to create a selection process, ask what other at-large selection strategies are, & Doug select age range.

5. UWEX Restructuring Updates

- Tom W. shared July 14 letter and invitation from UWEX, mailed to committee, Pete & Jeff invited as well. Douglas County thought whole county committee and a few staff will attend. Bayfield thought all county committee and staff attending.

- George will talk with Pete about all committee members attending.
- Tom W. had first CNRED work group meeting in Madison. UWEX is expecting 8 hours a week through next March or April for work group members.
- Julie Keown-Bomar is co-chair on the County & Tribal National work group, talk to her about ideas etc.

6. High Tunnel Updates

- Matt was up at the Bayfield high tunnel last night with some Master Gardeners. Season is off and running, the tunnels he has been to recently look good. Issue this spring about having to repair 2 electric motors.

7. Comprehensive Plan & Farmland Preservation Plan Committee Report

- Held meeting last night at the Town of Morse town hall in Mellen. All committee members attended and Emmer Shields from the Highway Department, Tom Waby from BART, and several representatives from the Town of Morse, reviewed Transportation section.
- Set another meeting in 2 weeks for the Farmland Preservation Planning, which has to be done in October. Tom W., Natalie, Tom F. and Britney have been meeting about weekly.
- Natalie did some survey work for the Town of Morse, they asked us to come down to present that data in about 2 weeks as well.

8. Energy Independence

- Tom W. reported that Bayfield Electric sold out their solar farm. Sounds like they doubled the size and have a waiting list, had a deadline of June 1.
- Tom W. has reached out to Von Brisesen and hasn't heard anything back.
- Hoping to go to Madeline Island on Friday, they will be dedicating their solar array which they are planning to use for all municipal buildings, school and library. Tom W. hopes to talk with the company who did the construction.
- NGLVC is putting up their solar array south of the center, should be operational in the next month or so. This is about the size we think we need for this building. 100KW, \$250 thousand. Apparently the price per watt is coming down, Excel got their array for \$1.87, Bayfield Electric was like \$2.60, and we had estimated for \$3.80.

10. 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.

11. Other Business -

- Charlie heard there were some issues regarding a huge music festival in Highbridge. Discussion that Ashland County doesn't have a noise ordinance. Charlie interested in getting all parties together to follow-up. Maybe talk with Law Enforcement, look at example of parties at Big Top. Will mention to Donna.
- Matt Cogger reported that he has done volunteer work in another county as vacation time. He needs committee approval to work with berry growers in northern Armenia. Kathy S. moved to support Matt's effort to go to Armenia. Norm seconded the motion. Motion carried.

12. Next Meeting Dates - Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 26th, 9 am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 am

Respectfully submitted by Amy Tromberg