

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**Ashland County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting**  
**August 15, 2016**                      **1:00pm**  
**Ashland County Extension Office**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Ortman at 1:03pm.

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

Others Present: Tom Wojciechowski, Doug Liphart, Joy Schelble, Amy Tromberg, Kathy Beeksm, and Natalie Cotter

**Approval of Minutes**

George moved to approve the minutes from the July 26, 2016 meeting. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

1. Charlie shared contracts for UWEX staff through June 2017 for Ag & Ex Committee to sign. They will be reviewed by Jeff Beirl before being sent in.

**Agent Reports**

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

<b><u>CNRED</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom reported on Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, August 13.</li> <li>• Working with AADC on two different meetings about economic development around the county, one up here and one down in the southern part of the county, Mellen.</li> <li>• Tom organized and our office helped out one evening at the Habitat for Humanity house, with landscaping, planting and seeding.</li> </ul>
<b><u>FRTEP</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a death in the Bad River youth community last week, a fifteen year old boy died in Lake Superior, he was a participant in the Bad River Youth Outdoors program. Joy said that he was truly a special kid, and there is a need for Joy to support younger kids especially now. Had 40+ kids at the high tunnel on Thursday and picked berries on Wednesday. Lots of support services for the kids.</li> <li>• Tomorrow making salsa with 2 youth programs, probably 30 kids. Making salsa for pow wow, and the high tunnels are in harvest mode.</li> <li>• Joy is also planning for the school year, including working with WNEP in the schools.</li> <li>• Continuing summer programming schedule, Take a Hike &amp; Bad River Youth Outdoors.</li> <li>• Norm asked about apple trees, Joy replied that the orchard was completely underwater during the flood, but it looks like the trees will make it. The tea gardens around the community are doing well too.</li> <li>• Met with a man from Oneida to learn about traditional lacrosse earlier in August.</li> <li>• Discussion about community lacrosse and fair display, including two displays at the 4-H Hall educational booths, one on 4-H &amp; FRTEP and one from Edith Leosso.</li> </ul>
<b><u>4-H</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doug met with both lacrosse coaches at Northland College and they are willing to support FRTEP and Bad River as much as they can. This is the first year of the Northland College Lacrosse program. Charlie's son played lacrosse for 4 years.</li> <li>• Doug is mentoring a new colleague in Trempealeau County and went down and back for his review.</li> <li>• Last of three Elementary Adventure Day (day camp for elementary age youth) in Mellen next week, rock climbing and swimming.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western Spirit Trip was a success and he is planning on presenting with a younger colleague at a National Conference in Minneapolis.</li> <li>• Trying to consolidate 4-H equipment and gear and trying to figure out better storage than his house, garage and shed. Discussion continued on storage options.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Family Living / WNEP</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applied to be in the adverse childhood experiences training, not sure if accepted yet. Had to reapply due to email application issues.</li> <li>• Doing Building Strong Families in the Ashland County Jail, 8 males in group, 1 meeting per week for 4 weeks.</li> </ul>

Kathy arrived 2:02pm. Handed out 2 posters from Jason Fischbach.

### **1. 2017 County Budget Request**

- Tom gave quick overview of budget request breakdown form. Option 2 includes estimates for a 4-H van, storage space and program support.
- Tom also shared how UWEX office breaks down 4 budget lines by program departments.
- Discussion regarding Ag & Ex budget and county budget overall
- George made a motion to forward Option 2 budget to Jeff. Kathy S. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **2. Flooding & Recovery**

- Does UWEX have the information / research to help? Charlie wondering about putting in the same size culverts in as what washed out. Martin wondering about landscaping, other areas the water can go.
- UWEX office shared resources and information with locals.
- Kathy S. gave a report, she gave out about 35 water well test kits tested at Ashland County Health & Human Services, a lot of wells failed. Town of Marengo handed out Red Cross kits. Kathy S. shared picture of George, Kathy S. and other volunteers at the Marengo Town Hall.

### **3. Child Development & Economic Development**

- We are not on the full Ashland County Board Meeting agenda, look at next meeting agenda.

### **4. Ashland County Fair Update & Parking**

- Charlie has not been to a highway meeting. George suggested talking to all highway committee board members.
- Kathy S. shared fair premium papers, and reported that the Fair is still selling Raffle tickets, \$100 each.
- County Board horse shoe contest on the schedule for Sunday at 12 noon, trophies are being cut today. Wear straw hat to County Board meeting on Thursday to promote & take picture.

### **5. Opportunities for Engaging Youth**

- Nothing new – Charlie left message with Terri Perry inquiring about ad hoc positions.
- See what statues say, George would really like the youth to be able to vote and get a per diem etc. Talk to Pete & Jeff. Would really like to have a youth member join our committee this fall. Doug talked with Charter school about having a student do this as a project. Land Conservation and Health & Human Services have at-large positions. In the past Doug has shared three models of this working successfully in other counties.

### **6. UWEX Restructuring Updates**

- Tom shared nEXT Generation paper survey with each committee member, reviewed survey, discussed deadline of Friday.

Natalie joined 3:17pm

### **7. High Tunnel Updates**

- Jason called and left a message: On August 24, from 12 noon – 2 pm at the Washburn School there will be a high tunnel tour and Farm to School event, please RSVP to Jason if you will attend. Senator Tammy Baldwin is planning on attending.

### **8. Comprehensive Plan & Farmland Preservation Plan Committee Report**

- Update: this Friday we have to post a full draft of the Comprehensive Plan and Farmland Preservation Plan for the public meeting in a month. Will print off a few hard copies and also have available online.
- Next Comp Plan Committee meeting set for August 24 at 9am.
- Due to deadline moving up and the grant funding we are able to keep Natalie on through September.
- Background document is mostly done, it is a final draft. Tom W., Charlie, Donna & Natalie are working on the goals & objectives, want to have a draft done by August 24 meeting.

Natalie left 3:26

### **9. Energy Independence**

- John Hockamer and Sherri Gruder promoting the PACE program, tentative meeting scheduled for Bayfield & Douglas Counties, asked if Ashland could be included. Charlie & Martin interested if available, maybe even roll into a regular Ag & Ex Meeting. Or at least invite Jeff, Pete, finance committee and Ag & Ex committee.

### **10. Approve Vouchers**

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

**11. Other Business** – George shared information about a new Bayfield Food Cooperative, Lake Superior CSA, they put out a weekly brochure, have a van with freezer and distribute boxes of frozen local food. So far just run by the board, no paid staff, but talking about selling shares. This is a new style of coop, any amount of shares still get one vote, compared to the number of shares is the number of votes. Bringing money back into Ashland and Bayfield counties. See website <http://bayfieldfoods.org/>

### **12. Next Meeting Dates -**

Our next meeting Wednesday September 28th, 9am

Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm

Respectfully submitted by Amy Tromberg