

MINUTES
Ashland County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting
Monday, February 6, 2023 9:00am
Ashland County Courthouse, Room 204

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Schutte at 9:00AM. Blake Frost took roll call of members.

Members Present: George Bussey, Kathy Schutte, Matt MacKenzie, George Mika

Members Not Present: Patrick Kinney

Others Present: Blake Frost, Mary Pardee, Dan Grady, Kate Wallner, Lissa Radke, Heidi Ungrodt, Stephanie Bakker, Charles Ortman.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mika moved to approve the agenda. Bussey seconded. Motion carried.

3. Public Comments:

Ortman greeted all present.

4. Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2022 Meeting

Mika moved to approve minutes. Bussey seconded. Motion carried.

5. Area Extension Director Report- Mary Pardee

- Staff updates: Stephanie Bakker is back from leave as of Jan. 3; Blake Frost is now a UW-Madison Division of Extension employee at 90%, fully funded by the county.
- Extension is undertaking a strategic planning process to guide the next 5 years. Pardee will discuss some questions with Dan Grady for county input into the process.

6. Education Highlights

Written report of educational highlights included in packet. Educator present gave brief highlights and led discussions. Discussion from committee included: appreciation for StrongBodies programming in a virtual format for seniors who are homebound; how to have water tested (Extension has kits available); questions regarding co-parenting class; programs around vaping; lacrosse at the County Fair; fair involvement by 4-H; fair bulletin printed at the end of June; appreciation for the work of Blake!

7. Discussion/Action Item: Creating a Climate Change Task Force – George Bussey

Discussion led by Bussey regarding the strawman draft resolution provided in the packet. Goal is to have a decision in the spring. Discussion around current comp plan usage, changing resolution to have clearer wording. It is basically a plan to have departments commit to assessing how climate change will impact their work on an annual basis. A rough draft example of the one page report each department will be asked to create was requested. It was noted that the county has expertise in the area and perspectives of all the municipalities in the area should be considered.

Bussey moved to table discussion until the next meeting. Mika seconded. Motion carried.

8. County Fair Update - Kathy Schutte

The planning meeting in January was successful, the fair financial report is ready.

9. Community committee member update – Dan Grady

Grady reported that the position will be reposted.

10. Other Business and Future agenda items

Request for discussion on Youth in Governance programming.

11. Next meeting – Monday April 3 at 9:00 AM

Meeting adjourned at 10:50AM.

Respectfully submitted by Blake Frost and Mary Pardee.