

MINUTES
Ashland County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting
Monday December 4, 2023 9:00am
Ashland County Courthouse, Room 204

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Members Present: George Bussey, Patrick Kinney, Matt MacKenzie (departed at 9:30), Brett Martinsen, George Mika

Members Excused: Kathy Schutte

Others Present: Blake Frost, Mary Pardee, Lissa Radke (virtual), Stephanie Bakker, Dan Grady

2. Approval of Agenda

Kinney moved to approve the agenda. Mika seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comments – No public comments

4. Approval of Minutes from October 2, 2023 Meeting

Mika moved to approve minutes. Kinney seconded. Kinney requested that location of minutes on the county website be fixed as some are in the wrong month. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Area Extension Director Report- Mary Pardee

Extension staff attended the All-Colleague conference in Madison, with Extension employees from throughout the state. All costs for this professional development opportunity is paid for with state funds and does not affect the county budget.

The Extension Northwoods Forum is being planned for May 7 in Lac Du Flambeau. All committee members will be invited to attend. Pardee is on the planning committee.

Staffing update: Conducting final interviews for the Ashland County Healthy Communities Coordinator position, a grant-funded position to focus on obesity issues. A part-time horticulture educator was hired in Iron County.

6. Education Highlights

Written report of educational highlights included in packet. Educators present have brief highlights and led discussions. Discussion from committee included: climate change effects on corn silage and CWD; solar electricity grants; CleanSweep items; promotion of local foods; remodel of The Brick; cultural exchanges; county tour for high school students led by Extension.

7. County Fair Update – Kathy Schutte / Brett Martinsen

Martinsen reported that the fair's annual meeting is scheduled for the 3rd Thursday in January at Northwoods Bar and Grill, to start planning for the 2024 fair. Discussion around an idea for a display of cultures represented in Ashland County; HHS on site to check blood pressure; cheaper rides from BART for senior citizens; and information/booth on resources for Aging.

8. Set meeting schedule for 2024 and discuss where to find meeting agenda and materials -

Currently meetings are the first Monday of even months. Discussion on frequency of meetings: every other month, quarterly, or amount of office activity (example: an extra meeting around fair time or skipping a month when educators all have events). The schedule will stay the same until the April 2024 election when our committee will change.

Meeting materials are posted and uploaded to County website one week in advance, sent to the

committee member's email, and mailed to committee members without email addresses along with a phone call. To save paper and printing costs, paper copies for all committee members are not printed, but available upon request to Blake.

9. Future agenda items - None

10. Next meeting – Monday, February 5, 2024 at 9:00 AM in Room 204

11. Meeting Adjourned at 10:20 AM

A public access period will follow at the conclusion of the meeting. A quorum may be present, however, no business will be conducted.

No discussion at this time.

Respectfully submitted by Blake Frost and Mary Pardee