

MINUTES
Ashland County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee
Meeting Monday, April 3, 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 9:03AM. Blake Frost took roll call of members.

Members Present: George Bussey, Matt MacKenzie, George Mika

Members Not Present: Kathy Schutte, Patrick Kinney

Others Present: Blake Frost, Mary Pardee, Dan Grady, Marisa Perlberg, Kate Wallner, Lissa Radke, Kelly Westlund, Richard Pufall, Bill Metzinger

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Public Comments

League of Women Voters representative, Linda Calhan, read a prepared statement supporting the proposal for a Climate Change Task Force. She provided a copy of the statement.

4. Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2023 Meeting

Mika moved to approve minutes. Bussey seconded. Bussey moved to amend minutes to change “Comp Plan” to “Comprehensive Plan” in agenda item number 7. Mika seconded the amendment. Amendment and motion passed unanimously.

5. Area Extension Director Report- Mary Pardee

- Staff updates: Kelly Westlund has been added to the UW Madison Extension Team on a two year pilot program as the Housing Outreach Specialist, co-funded by Bayfield County; recruiting for 4-H Superior Adventures summer assistant.
- Invitation extended to Committee Members to join the Area 1 Extension Team for lunch at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center for the Area 1 Meeting on April 18.

6. Education Highlights

Written report of educational highlights included in packet. Educators present gave brief highlights and led discussions.

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

Bussey entered the League of Women Voters statement into record. No objections. Discussion on: whether climate change action should be referred to the county board; whether the language of “climate change” should be made more neutral.

Bussey distributed a prepared motion (see below) and moved for the Ag & Extension Committee to approve the recommendations therein and transmit them to the Executive Committee. Mika seconded.

THE MOTION: (before the Ashland County Ag & UW Extension Committee, April 3, 2023)

APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION AND TRANSMITTAL

Moved by

Seconded by

TRANSMITTAL April 3, 2023

From: Ashland County Ag & UW Extension Committee

To: Ashland County Executive Committee

Subject: Assessing Weather & Climate Risks & Opportunities

Pursuant the Executive Committee's December 8, 2022 discussion/action item "Creating a Climate Change Task Force" and the delegation of the topic to the Ag & UW Extension Committee for consideration, this Committee recommends the following Process and Operational Strategy for the County Board's consideration.

Process and Operational Strategy:

- A. Bottom-up approach rooted in individual County departments.
- B. Annual assessments of "Weather & Climate Risks & Opportunities" by each County department of near-term and long-term expected impacts on departmental functions and budget.
- C. Assessments and recommendations collaboratively developed between departments and their related County Board committees.
- D. A consolidated annual "Weather & Climate Risks & Opportunities" report to be compiled and summarized annually by the Comprehensive Planning Ad Hoc Committee (as appointed by the County Chair) in cooperation with the County Administrator, and reported to the Executive Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the Ashland County Board.
- E. Annual consideration by the County Board of the consolidated assessment of "Weather & Climate Risks & Opportunities".
- F. To extent approved by the County Board, annually amend the Ashland County Comprehensive Plan to incorporate relevant components of the annual "Weather & Climate Risks & Opportunities" report.

VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE:

On behalf of the Ag. & UW Ext. Committee as approved April 3, 2023

George Bussey, Committee Chair

Discussion on: accountability of county departments per issues and budget needs; concern for what the Task Force will be measuring/looking for specifically; how the Comprehensive Plan will be used; current Extension work with Readiness Work Groups. Bussey noted this is not final and is a starting point.

Bussey called the vote. Motion passed 2-1. (Voting yes: Bussey, Mika. Voting no: MacKenzie)

8. County Fair Update - Kathy Schutte – Not present, will be on next agenda

9. Community committee member update – Dan Grady

Brett Martinsen has been submitted by County Board Chair Pufall as the citizen community member, will be voted on at the April County Board Meeting. This position has full voting privileges.

10. Other Business and Future agenda items

Dairy Expo talked about with community members (Wallner)

11. Next Meeting - Monday, June 5, 9:00AM

Meeting adjourned at 10:20AM.

Respectfully submitted by Blake Frost and Mary Pardee.