

**MINUTES**  
**Ashland County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, August 7, 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, Kathy Schutte, Patrick Kinney, George Mika, Brett Martinsen

*Members Not Present:* Matt MacKenzie

*Others Present:* Blake Frost, Mary Pardee, Kate Wallner, Lissa Radke, Heidi Ungrodt, Stephanie Bakker, Richard Pufall

**2. Approval of Agenda**

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

**3. Public Comments** - no public comments

**4. Approval of Minutes from June 5, 2023 Meeting**

Kinney moved to approve minutes. Martinsen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Discussion/Action Item- 2024 Extension Budget Request- Mary Pardee**

Pardee provided the requested 2024 budget along with a narrative. There is a slight 1.5% increase due to an increase in contractual fees. All other lines remain the same.

Mika moved to send 2024 budget request to Finance Committee. Schutte seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Area Extension Director Report – Mary Pardee**

Iron County is hiring two positions: Community Development Educator and Horticulture Educator. Lissa is serving on the hiring committee for the Community Development position.

**7. Education Highlights**

*Written report of educational highlights included in packet.* Educators present gave brief highlights and led discussions. Discussion from committee included: Comprehensive Plan Standing Committee; importance of Literacy Link in the jail.

Schutte moved to send a recommendation to the Executive Committee to create a Comprehensive Plan Standing Committee and assign members. Kinney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Discussion/Action Item: Cross-cultural interaction programs and role of Extension – George Bussey**

Continue next meeting, when Kate Wallner will facilitate a discussion on cultural exchange programs in 4-H and youth development.

**9. County Fair Update – Kathy Schutte/Brett Martinsen**

Next weekend is the County Fair. Maintenance is being done to all areas, including 4-H. We should keep inviting people and promoting the events. The Extension Office will be represented by Lissa Radke, Blake Frost, and a couple volunteers from the community. They will be doing solar cooking and art activities.

**10. Revisit April 2022 decision to hold committee meetings first Monday of even months at 9AM**

Bussey suggests a 60 minute “business” portion with action items followed by a set period of open discussion. No decision to change date or time.

**11. Future Agenda Items**

a) report from Kate Wallner about 4-H and cultural exchange ideas

**12. Next meeting** – Monday, October 2, 9:00AM in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 9:58AM

Respectfully submitted by Blake Frost and Mary Pardee