

MEETING MINUTES
Ashland County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting
April 27, 2016 **9:00am**
Ashland County Extension Office

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Pete Russo at 9:02am

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

Others Present: Doug Liphart, Amy Tromberg, Kathy Beeksma, Pete Russo, Tom Wojciechowski, Jason Fischbach, and Joy Schelble

Elections of Officers Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson

Pete asked for Chair nominations, Kathy S. nominated Charlie. After no other nominations George moved to close nominations and cast an anonymous ballot for Charlie as Chair, motion seconded by Martin, motion carried. Pete asked for Vice-Chair nominations, Charlie nominated Kathy S. for Vice-Chair. Norm seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Kathy S. moved to approve the minutes from the March 31, 2016 meeting. George seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comments – Welcome and introductions with Martin Vitek.

- Charlie interested in having Pete make an ad hoc or sub-committee regarding water issues – something along the lines of a Water Quality Assurance Committee. Pete is talking with Land committee, get a group together, Charlie suggested having a representative from Bad River Water Shed and City of Ashland etc.

Agent Reports

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

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| <u>Ag</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason handed out his agent report and a 4 page high tunnel 2016 survey report. • They surveyed 34 folks in Ashland and Bayfield Counties who have high tunnels, 25 responded to survey; total identified 56 high tunnels, ranging in size from 20' x 14' to 146' x 30'; a combined 1.9 acres of production under these high tunnels. • 10 more planned to be built in the area with Cost Share with National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS). • Survey shows how people are using their high tunnels, about half for commercial production, and half for family use, 7 tunnels are being used for educational purposes. Survey results also say that half have difficulty marketing/ selling all they grow. |
| <u>FRTEP</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Treaty Rights day last Friday at NGLVC, UWEX programing was most hands-on and interactive. This was a partnership with Bad River Natural Resources & Earth Partnerships for Schools which is through UW Arboretum. • Attended local meeting on Act 31, which mandated all schools to provide education on the indigenous people in their community. UWEX integrates culture in our programs! • Attending youth open house at Bad River this afternoon, invited members to attend. • Joy is teaching at the Ashland Middle School high tunnel today, they are able to integrate education including STEM, food production, nutrition and food security. • There is a group of Bad River middle school youth who will be able to transition over to the Bad River high tunnel for the summer. |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joy has been able to organize Bad River community members to come in to the Bad River Head Start and present on traditional topics including maple sugaring, GLIFWC member on fishing and spearing and Joy is able to complement their education with hands on activities. About ready to put together an Ojibwa Head Start curriculum. Bad River now has a Food Sovereignty Committee, community members who are offering guidance, Joy will be presenting to that committee and asking if they would be her advisory committee as well. |
| <u>4-H & Youth</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CESA #12 youth science event day with WITC and Northland, Doug led a STEM activity on filtering water. 38 kids at MAQA (Meat Animal Quality Assurance) training for Ashland and Bayfield County youth, a collaborative effort. Regional Director Julie Keown-Bomar held Doug's annual review. Doug shared Bad River 4-H Leaders concerns regarding sharps and drug related hazardous waste materials on Bad River trails, and places where kids should be safe. Doug shared May 1st Community Drug Forum poster and information. Kathy B. is also involved in the Criminal Justice Council (CJC) and Emerging Drug Coalition. |
| <u>Family Living / WNEP</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kathy gave history of Emerging Drug Coalition and its ongoing work. 30 people self-signed up on a waiting list for the Northlakes drug treatment. The May 1st Community Drug Forum is the output of a much larger group and project. Ashland & Bayfield Counties WNEP grant writing due April 15, some new programs. Kathy reviewed the WNEP program and staffing. Family Living work includes leadership roles in the Criminal Justice Council (CJC), and Wellness for Life grant. Today has a credit and debt class with 20 participants signed up. Many need help keeping their electric on and are taking the class for electrical assistance. Kathy B. & Liz Lexau held a Money Management Training Coaching class, these participants will be able to take a quiz and then be available to teach the budget class that is required for assistance. Parenting and co-parenting classes, just finished the 8 week Raising a Thinking Child (RTC) program. Kathy will be going to Bad River Social Services in May and working with their staff to create an intake to do one-on-one parenting classes for required parents, tailoring the program to the parents. Norm asked about homelessness, Ashland Cares and the donated house. Kathy B. stated that Ashland Cares has offices there, will give an update next meeting. |
| <u>CNRED</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washburn County colleague has done Colors Program for Ashland County, Tom W. went down last week and gave a Leadership Program on Public Speaking to 12 attendees. Tim Kane and Tom W. nominated Beth Meyers for the WI Ideas award, Tom attended JCEP where Beth received this award. |

Pete & Jason left 9:30am

1. Ashland County Fair Update and Parking

- Charlie would like to see Bad River youth and high tunnel garden produce at the Ashland County Fair.
- Kathy S. gave a fair update. Jerry Harris, a hypnotist from the state of Washington, has been hired for 3 evening shows at the fair. Kathy S. asked if anyone else would consider being on the fair board, they meet Thursday nights. Put on next agenda. Kathy S has been on the fair board for the last 2 years.
- Asked Kathy S. to go to next highway meeting, ask for 20 loads, new highway committee. This summer thee fairgrounds will be routing all of the traffic through the main gate.

2. County Board Retreat Planning

- Tom W. talked with Jeff about the idea of a department fair.

- Tom W. passed around a copy of a 10 year old Ashland County Department booklet that is 15 pages, would we be interested in updating this? Yes.
- The County Officials Workshop (COWS) is May 11th, in Cable at Lakewoods, George and Martin are planning on going, need to get signed slips from Pete.
- County Board Retreat date options Thursdays June 9th or June 2nd? Check with Admin office.

Joy left, 10:58am

3. Report on Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD)

- Charlie attended PILD for his second year of the 2 year program from April 9-14th, in Washington, DC, advocated continued funding for UWEX.
- Talked to Ron Johnson's and Duffy's staff, they seemed supportive.
- Went to several breakout sessions, including National 4-H. Look into CYFAR grant money, Doug was able to go to a great conference in the past.

4. Opportunities for Engaging Youth

Youth Outreach

- George highlighted that the Ashland High School Board has supported FFA, led by Sandy Naas. She teaches classes at AHS, outreach to everyone, classes on forestry, equine, gardening etc. a good opportunity for local youth too.
- Questioned if it is that there isn't enough youth activities, or not enough interest?
- Doug replied issues are awareness and/or support (parents, transportation, costs, etc.)

Camp for Youth

- George asked to keep on the burner, might not happen this year.
- Doug talked with Ian Meeker about this and suggestions and concerns. Issues included theft, vandalism, trash, misuse. Bayfield County 4-H Camp Topside, has a shelter, a few picnic tables, and fire ring. Have the sheriff's department add to their rounds, include Jason Calpro, the recreation officer from Mellen.
- Doug put together initial wish list: fire ring, covered picnic table, water access for fishing etc., open space 25-30 meters square for games etc., outhouse, tent pads (level and well drained) to start. George was talking about 1 or 2 bunk houses.

Youth Involvement in County Government

- Doug had a meeting with the AHS Charter School, gave presentation, Q&A, and poll on how many might be interested in participating, had 6-8 kids express interest. The Charter school teachers were for it and willing to let kids attend during the school day, make this into a project for the Charter school project based learning.
- George, also talk with Pete & Jeff about this and keep on agenda.

5. UWEX Restructuring Updates

- Tom shared nEXT Generation recent emails, Kathy B. & Tom self-nominated and were nominated by Regional Director Julie Keown-Bomar for nEXT Gen work groups. Statewide there were twice as many nominations as positions. One of the expectations was that it would take up to 8-10 hours a week of their time for the next 6 to 8 months. Jeff was supportive of having some representation. Kathy B.'s goal, if selected, is to have the majority of this time come from the portion of her 25% regional associate role. Now looking at Jan 1, 2017 for changes.
- WI Association of County Extension Committees (WACEC) annual statewide meeting is June 20-21st in Wausau. For the Northwest Region Charlie currently is 1st Vice-President and can't attend. Kathy S. is Secretary and is planning on attending.

6. High Tunnel Updates

- See Jason's agent report and hand out on 2016 High Tunnel Survey.
- Joy said Bad River high tunnels hope to plant on Wednesday.

7. Comprehensive Plan & Farmland Preservation Plan Committee Report

- Holding meeting tomorrow, hoping to go through 2 sections.
- Goals & Objectives are being put together and will be sent out for review.
- Project timeline will be reviewed for getting project done by November 2016.
- Webpage up and rolling under Ashland County UW-Extension CNRED.

8. Energy Independence

- Tom W. said that we haven't heard back from Von Briesen, the company who was going to give us a quote and possibly work at Northland College, but they aren't ready to act.
- Jeff has not heard from the consultant who went through the jail to recommend lighting upgrades.
- Renewable energy Tax credits extended for 3 or 5 more years.

9. Approve Vouchers

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

10. Other Business -

- George wants committee to think about attending May 1st, Community Forum on Drugs and representing the county there. Charlie will talk with Pete, asked members to fill out voucher.
- Kathy B. shared about Project Safe for Ashland High School graduation night, overnight lock in celebration to have safe evening.
- Kathy S. offered to make homemade oven baked Finnish cheese for our next meeting.
- Tom W. talked about doing something for Ken, ideas were discussed. Ken kept on LCC committee as a citizen member.

11. Next Meeting Dates - Tuesday, May 24th at 9am

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 am

Respectfully submitted by Amy Tromberg