

**MINUTES**  
**Ashland County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, April 1, 2024 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, Matt MacKenzie, Brett Martinsen, George Mika

Others Present: Blake Frost, Mary Pardee, Stephanie Bakker, Heidi Ungrodt, Kelly Westlund, Richard Pufall, Charles Ortman, Dan Grady (9:45)

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Noted that Item 13 (Future Meeting Date) was not changed from prior agenda. Mika moved to approve the agenda. Kinney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Public Comments** – No public comments

**4. Approval of Minutes from February 5, 2024 Meeting**

Amendment proposed by Schutte: correcting item #7 stating Schutte's time spent on County Board from 10 years to 13 years. Kinney moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mika seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Update on Extension Housing Activities** - Kelly Westlund, Housing Educator

Westlund shared updates on her activities as the Extension Housing Educator, a position co-funded by Bayfield County but which has impacts in Ashland County, including the CDBG to improve the homeless shelter and plans to provide information for the housing element of the Ashland County Comprehensive Plan.

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

Verbal report included a letter of support for Northland College on behalf of Extension; staffing update; and May 7 Northwoods Forum invitation to register.

**7. Education Highlights**

*Written report of educational highlights included in packet.* Educators present gave brief highlights and led discussions. Discussion from committee included: solar grant; Cleansweep; youth usage of fentanyl and other drugs; effectiveness of virtual vs in-person programming.

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

Schutte and Martinsen shared that some events will be moved around this year and the fair continues to work on infrastructure. There will be a car show this year on Sunday at the same time as the 4-H Breakfast.

**9. Discussion - Connecting people, food, and transportation via BART** - requested by MacKenzie

No discussion.

**10. Discussion - Xcel Energy land for community garden** - requested by Kinney

Kinney suggested that a community garden could have high tunnels; sees location convenient to students/faculty of Northland College.

**11. Discussion - Role of Extension in Ashland County Comprehensive Plan** - requested by Bussey Grady shared that the County Board approved the formation of a Comprehensive Plan Update Committee, to include Department Heads and members of the community. Radke will be convening multiple stakeholders to provide input into the planning process.

**12. Future Agenda Items**

Pardee will provide an Extension Orientation for new members.

**13. Next Meeting** – Monday, June 3, 2024 at 9:00AM in Room 204

**14. Recognition of departing committee members Schutte, Mika and MacKenzie**

Chairman Bussey allowed recognition of the 3 members and the Extension staff provided coffee/cake after adjournment.

**15. Meeting adjourned** at 9:42AM

*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