

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 21, 2021
WEBEX CONFERENCE CALL
7:45 AM

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL TO COMPLY WITH THE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES. IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC AND WISH TO SPEAK, PLEASE CALL THE DIAL IN NUMBER AND THE COMMITTEE CHAIR WILL ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME ON THE AGENDA. IF YOU NEED TO EITHER MUTE OR UNMUTE YOURSELF DURING THE MEETING PRESS *6.

MEETING PHONE NUMBER 1-415-655-0001

MEETING NUMBER (ACCESS CODE): 126 393 0510

MEETING PASSWORD: 23977734

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Kari Ives	Chippewa County	District 12 (Chair)	Present	
Ken Schmitt	Chippewa County	District 3 (Vice-Chair)	Present	7:59 AM
Charlene Kervina	Chippewa County	District 10	Excused	
Annette Hunt	Chippewa County	District 13	Remote	
Glen Sikorski	Chippewa County	District 2	Remote	
Heather Lubs	Chippewa County	Meeting Clerk	Present	

Randy Scholz (present), Catherine Emmanuelle (remote), Heidi Benson (remote), Jerry Clark (remote), Margaret Murphy (remote), Jeanne Walsh (remote), Nancy Fastner (remote) and Sandy Tarter (remote)

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

No members of the public wishing to be heard.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Glen Sikorski, District 2
SECONDER:	Annette Hunt, District 13
AYES:	Ives, Schmitt, Hunt, Sikorski
EXCUSED:	Kervina

1. Approve the agenda

Agriculture & Extension Committee

Minutes
Regular Meeting

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2. Approve the Minutes

Agriculture & Extension Committee - Regular Meeting - Feb 3, 2021 7:45 AM

3. Schedule next meeting date - June 2, 2021

5. REPORTS

1. Area Extension Director - Catherine Emmanuelle
C. Emmanuelle reported educators will be transition back to full time within the county offices July 1, 2021.
The state is working with educators regarding summer programming to ensure safety, distance and hygiene.
The Community Development Resource Educator position hiring freeze has been lifted at state level.
Area 6 (Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire) will be hosting 3 interns his summer through a grant program valued at \$15,000. The interns will work with educators in FoodWise, Human Development & Relationships, 4-H and Horticulture.
Reminder to save the date for September 15 the for the Annual Area 6 Meet & Greet.
2. Hydroponic Garden Unit - Catherine Emmanuelle
C. Emmanuelle provided an overview of donation letters within the meeting packet.
3. 4-H - Heidi Benson
Areas of report included:
Hybrid learning
Clover College - take and learn kits, reached 45 youth
Bloomer & Chippewa Falls Library partnerships to reach 120 youth with STEM kits
Summer program planning - Quality Meat Animal Auction, 4-H Snack Bar at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair, 5-8 grade youth experience and summer camp.
Art U - partnership with UW-Stout art students and 4-H youth reaching 78 youth.
Digging Deeper into 4-H program - 5 weeks of virtual programs
Breads & Spreads (bread baking)
Horticulture Mini Camp
Poultry learning sessions
Virtual Programming - state wide program
Exploring expansion of community programming
4. Agriculture - Jerry Clark
Impact of Agriculture on Ground Water Program held March 16. 18 participants learned about groundwater geology and how surface events affect nitrate levels.
Pesticide Applicator Certification Testing offered in Stanley area. 20 participants completed testing.
Created two podcasts for Cutting Edge Podcast Series. Saffron Production and Carbon Farming.
Planted small grain research trials. Trials consist of malting barley variety and fungicide application performance evaluation, hard red winter wheat and winter rye variety performance evaluation, hard red spring wheat variety evaluation.
Developing Farm Technology Days educational displays for show in July 20-22.
Continue to serve as North Central Regional Director for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Term ends July 2021.
Serve on the Chippewa County COVID-19 Economic Response Task Force.

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Future projects

Adaptive Nitrogen Management Research Project - Holcombe

Soil Nitrate Study - Chippewa Falls

Industrial hemp grain, fiber, and essential oil trials, held in partnership with Buffalo County, Ho-Chunk Nation near Monroe County, and Oregon State University

Tractor Safety - Two programs. One in Bloomer and a potential hybrid-model.

5. Horticulture - Margaret Murphy

Master Gardener Program (MGP)

In 2020, Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) training was suspended

Area 6 was one of a few areas that offered an online horticulture class.

This resulted in several participants completing the Master Gardener Program's newly required onboarding class.

Area 6 now has 11 new Master Gardener Volunteers to welcome for 2021.

To assist new volunteers, we launched a newly developed mentorship program this April.

Mentors will welcome and help acclimate new volunteers to the MGP and help get them involved in local projects

I have a growing list of people interested in training in 2021, which we hope to offer in the fall.

I've been asked to join the group currently working on developing the new Foundations in Horticulture course, which will be open to anyone not just those planning to become MGVs

Master Gardener Volunteers from area 6 and area 5 and Barron county worked together to offer a virtual garden seminar.

It included a series of presentations given over 4-weeks

there were over 300 registrants. The program was advertised statewide though we also had participation from people outside of Wisconsin.

Community Gardens

Working with Heather - Applications have gone out - Chippewa Falls garden looks to be full again this year - Bloomer had a few long-term gardeners "retire" from their plots, so we have openings there

Nancy and I will be doing programming with the Boys & Girls Club this summer at the Chippewa Fall Community Garden

They received a grant from the Chippewa Valley Master Gardener Volunteers and plan to create a garden club and have the kids come to the garden for lesson plans on food nutrition and food gardening

Jessica Mackey of United Healthcare Retiree Solutions participates on a committee that does community service projects

This year they focused on food security and she contacted me about working with Extension to partner on a community garden plot that grows food for donation to area food pantries

I will be assisting with the food growing together with older kids from the Boys & Girls Club and community garden participants - possibly the Area 6 interns

4H

Working with Heidi and other 4H staff as well as the Horticulture Educator in Area 5 on a multi-county virtual garden mini-camp. The focus is on learning food growing. Elementary aged kids will be growing lettuce, beans & squash in their gardens or in containers.

Programs

Chippewa, Dunn & Eau Claire Counties are hosting an upcoming virtual program on [Vegetable Diseases](https://dunn.extension.wisc.edu/2021/03/23/11011/) <<https://dunn.extension.wisc.edu/2021/03/23/11011/>> by Dr. Brian Hudelson, Director of the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic - April 29th

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I presented on vegetable gardening 101 for beginning vegetable gardeners on April 13 hosted by the Chippewa Falls Public Library
Chippewa MGVS will have an ask-a-master gardener panel again hosted by the library starting at 6:30 on April 29
In early May I will be doing a short presentation on vegetable container gardening for FoodWise Strong Bodies program
In mid-May, I will be presenting on food safety in the garden for the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers which is open to all MGVS.

6. Human Development & Relationships - Jeanne Walsh

J. Walsh reported she is providing programming in the following areas:

Encouraging financial conversations

Planning AHEAD Pilot Program - end of life planning

County Wellness Workgroup - providing sessions on finance, food safety and food security

Self care/Coping class

Virtual programming with the Chippewa County Jail

7. FoodWise - Sandy Tarter/Nancy Fastner

Nancy reported:

Finished up programming with Chippewa Valley High School, covering nutrition, food safety and basic cooking skills, and career exploration.

Currently after school (remote) programming with Lake Holcombe and Cornell.

Ongoing Cooking Matters Pilot and programming with WIC and HeadStart monthly.

Recording cooking videos for food pantry's and websites, along with making easy to read food pamphlets for pantry clients using Canva-pilot program with FoodWise.

Upcoming:

Continue with Strong Bodies, selected to work on a State Ambassador team for Strong Bodies.

Collaborating with local Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Margaret Murphy, and Boys and Girls Club with hopeful "Kids in the Garden" series this summer.

Sandy reported:

The Strong Bodies current statewide program has 20 Chippewa County residents.

Community Nutrition Program at UW-Stout.

Currently working on 2022 fiscal year budget and partnership agreements.

Continues her coalition work with Challenge Chippewa.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Review Draft Resolution to Fill Community Development Educator Position

Overview of Explanation as provided in the meeting packet.

The Agriculture & Extension Committee members approved the resolution. The resolution will proceed to the Executive Committee for the next step in the approval process.

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SECONDER:	Annette Hunt, District 13
AYES:	Ives, Schmitt, Hunt, Sikorski
EXCUSED:	Kervina

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

No future agenda items were identified.

8. ADJOURN

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