

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 2, 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): 1820 57 1900

MEETING PASSWORD: 37487527

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	
Charlene Kervina	Chippewa County	District 10	Absent	
Annette Hunt	Chippewa County	District 13	Excused	
Glen Sikorski	Chippewa County	District 2	Present	
Heather Lubs	Chippewa County	Meeting Clerk	Present	

Others present: Jerry Clark and Heidi Benson in person. Catherine Emmanuelle, Margaret Murphy and Nancy Fastner via remote.

Excused: Jeanne Walsh and Sandy Tarter.

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

Charlene Kervina as member of the public. No items to discuss.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ken Schmitt, District 3 (Vice-Chair)
SECONDER:	Glen Sikorski, District 2
AYES:	Ives, Schmitt, Sikorski
ABSENT:	Kervina
EXCUSED:	Hunt

1. Approve the agenda
2. Approve the Minutes

Agriculture & Extension Committee - Regular Meeting - Apr 21, 2021 7:45 AM

3. Schedule next meeting date - August 4, 2021

5. REPORTS

1. Area Extension Director - Catherine Emmanuelle
C. Emmanuelle reported the Extension colleagues are reintegrating back into the office being fully in office as of July 6, 2021. As prior to the pandemic some office education will continue outside of the office.

Youth guidance was announced yesterday noting masks will not be necessary for vaccinated individuals. This will be self-regulated.

Preliminary interviews for the Community Resource Development position occurred and the next step will be to invite top candidates back for final interviews. Updates will continue to be provided to the committee.

2. Agriculture - Jerry Clark
J. Clark reported he continues to work on several research projects. Conducting fungicide, fertility, and variety trials. This is the 3rd and final year of the industrial hemp fiber and grain trial for our area. If additional funding or research is needed another year may occur.

Programming podcasts continue. In August a manure spill response field presentation will be held in August near Boyd. More info will be shared as planning is finalized.

An educational video is being produced focused on small sprayers (lawn mower, 4 wheeler, etc implements). These are being used in food plots and small farms. The video will provide proper use demonstrations.

The Dairy Judging Contest was held differently this year with the use of the Hoard's Dairyman Contest. Cornell and Chi-Hi participated with great success.

An article regarding malting barley research done by Jerry was accepted and published in the June issue of the Journal of the National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA).

3. Horticulture - Margaret Murphy

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Horticulture inquiries

- in full swing - recent questions have included tree health, lawn maintenance, plant IDs, soil tests results and diagnosing fungal and insect issues on plants.

Educational Outreach

- Vegetable gardening in containers continues to grow in popularity and I presented on the topic to the Strong Bodies program on May 3 and again on May 4 and for the first Chippewa County employee Lunch N Learn offered since the pandemic started.
- I also recently presented to MGVs on best practices regarding food safety in a donation garden which was hosted by the Eau Claire Area Master gardeners.

Mentoring

- MGV mentoring program is in full swing - mentors and mentees have been paired and are working together to bring new MGVs into the program
- I've been asked to mentor/give guidance to the director of the Boys & Girls Club - Eau Claire on installing an edible garden at their organization's site

Community Gardens

- The Chippewa Falls Community Garden is full
 - 2 gardens have been rented by the Chippewa Falls Boys & Girls Club with funds from a grant given to them by the Chippewa MGVs
 - I met with a group from the B&G's Club last week to plant the gardens - they learned how to plant seeds and transplants and proper spacing of plants -
 - Their theme is a pizza garden and plan to donate to a local pantry some of their produce
 - 1 plot was rented by UnitedHealthCare to grow food for donation, which is planted
 - they supplied plants, mulch and other materials
- Bloomer Community Garden still has plots available -
- Jeffers Community Garden in Eau Claire is also full - need to find someone to mow, if anyone knows of anyone

Committee work

- Participate on the search and screen committee for the Community Development Educator position
- Participate on the committee to develop the Foundations in Horticulture course, which will be open for registration in July
- Participate on the MG program Continuing Educations committee to determine what materials are appropriate for MGV continuing education

Professional Development

- the Wisconsin JCEP 2021 Annual Conference
- the Extension Climate Change Professional Development Webinars - still ongoing

4. FoodWise - Sandy Tarter/Nancy Fastner

N. Fastner reported the current session of Strong Bodies will be ending soon. Planning to start the next series in mid July. Hoping to have some session in person and still have virtual sessions making a hybrid format. Currently have 22 Chippewa County participants.

Cooking Matters program is being provided to WIC and Head Start participants via virtual lessons. Participants receive a gift certificate after participation to purchase the items highlighted in the lesson. The pilot continues, working with WIC to increase use of farmers market vouchers and fruits and veggie benefits.

Virtual after school programming in Lake Holcombe finished up in April.

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Involved in learning circles.

Working with Margaret Murphy on the Boys and Girls community garden plots.

Recently provided a virtual session to UW-Stout students regarding the FoodWise program.

In Sandy's absence, Nancy noted that Sandy has been working on FY202 budgeting planning of 759 events, budget details, county assessments, and 3-year action plan completed. Surveys also recently sent to partners to assess our service and if their needs are being met. Budget very close to last year with no change in FTE's.

The FoodWise programs involvement in CHIP will feature a summer activity for community members highlighting some outdoor activities found in the Chippewa Valley. Working with food panties to establish one food pantry location open every day rather than multiple panties.

5. 4-H - Heidi Benson

The Digging Deeper virtual session wrapped up with an in person rocket launch which provided a great turnout for youth to launch their rockets made during one of the sessions.

H. Benson noted her role as the committee chair for JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) wrapped up with the recent conclusion of the conference with 145 colleagues joining virtually.

Camp Counselor training is underway for this year's summer camp. Counselors kicked off their training in early May, will attend two more sessions in June before camp in July.

The 5-8th grade experience will take place in August with youth heading to Green Bay for an educational and service learning experience.

Fair prep has begun.

Sundae on the Farm will be held on June 27, 2021 at the Jeff & Marie Pagenkopf Farm. Ice cream sundaes, cheese samples and a petting zoo will be available.

Heidi shared she was recently awarded with the Excellence in Teamwork, Excellence in Periodical Newsletter, Achievement in Service and Colleague of the Year awards. Congratulations compliments to Heidi were shared.

6. Human Development - Jeanne Walsh

J. Walsh provided report for review prior to meeting. C. Emmanuelle highlighted to the committee

K. Ives noted she participated in the Planning AHEAD and Encouraging Financial Conversations sessions provided and found them to be very helpful with excellent handouts. She was able to put some thing in the library at the Stanley Prison for inmates to reference.

Human Development & Relationships Report - provided in place of in person presentation

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

No business items to discuss.

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7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

No future agenda items identified.

8. ADJOURN

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