

MINUTES
MANITOWOC COUNTY
Extension Education and Agriculture Committee

DATE: Thursday, February 18, 2021

TIME: 4:45 P.M.

PLACE: Manitowoc County Office Complex, 4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc, WI

MINUTES:

1. **Meeting called to order** at 4:45 p.m. by Chair Wagner.
2. **Roll call:** Present: Supervisor Wagner, Supervisor Cavanaugh, Supervisor Martell and Supervisor Hansen. Excused: Supervisor Neils. Also present: Judy Knudsen, Interim Department Director and Cath Tease, Extension Manitowoc County Health & Well Being Educator.
3. **Approval of Agenda.** Motion made by Supervisor Hansen and seconded by Supervisor Cavanaugh to approve agenda. Motion carried.
4. **Public Comment** – None.
5. **Minutes.** Motion made by Supervisor Hansen and seconded by Supervisor Martell to approve minutes of the October 15, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.
6. **Correspondence** – Supervisor Wagner shared correspondence from the Wisconsin Counties Association regarding Wisconsin Extension Association (WEXA) 1) dues of \$50.00 and 2) meeting via Zoom scheduled for Friday, February 21, 2021. Supervisors Wagner and Hansen will participate.
7. **Program Highlight**

Cath Tease, Extension Manitowoc County Health and Well Being Educator provided update on her programming. She serves as co-chair of the Substance Abuse Coalition. The group has distribution containers throughout the county for 1) safe disposal and 2) safe storage of opioids. Lock boxes have also been placed at facilities serving high risk populations. Deactivation kits have been distributed at pop-up food pantry sites. Six ID scanners have been obtained and are designed to reduce access to underage drinking.

Her teaching focuses on delivering the following programs. 1) Highlights of Taking Care of You” explores ways to take better care of yourself and manage stress. 2) Prevent Suicide QPR Training. This training is intended to offer hope through positive action. 3) Adult Mental Health First Aide is an intervention public education program to teach adults how to recognize signs and symptoms that suggest a potential mental health challenge, how to listen nonjudgmentally, a give assurance to person who may be experiencing a mental health challenge, and 4) Strong Bodies Strength Training program designed to increase strength, muscle mass and bone density in middle aged and older women.

8. Department Director Report:

Update on Vacant Positions:

Agriculture Educator – Vacant Agriculture Educator position, there are multiple scenarios related to staffing 1) funding request by Interim UW-Madison System President Tommy Thompson for additional county educators, and 2) bill submitted by State of Wisconsin legislator for additional state specialists. In addition, Extension leadership is having conversations with dairy industry leaders and stakeholders regarding strategies on how Extension can best address the future of the dairy industry in Wisconsin and staffing needed to benefit the industry.

FoodWise Nutrition Educator – This position is funded with external funding obtained by the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education, so it is being filled. Preliminary interviews are being held the week of 2.15.22 and final interviews are scheduled for week of 2.22.2021.

Budget review/progress 20201 to date was shared.

Transition of Dairy Superintendent at the Manitowoc County Fair – Judy Knudsen has worked with Expo staff to transition files and to determine tasks that will continue to be completed by Extension Manitowoc County related to the youth dairy show.

Co-Parenting classes offered by Extension in Manitowoc County. Renee Koenig, Extension Kewaunee County Human Development Relationships Educator has offered co-parenting classes in Manitowoc County for several years. In 2020, 89 Manitowoc County parents participated in the program benefiting 124 children. She works with a number of organizations including the courts system to recruit parents. Registration fee charged to parents covers materials and her mileage.

9. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 15, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment: Motion made by Supervisor Cavanaugh and seconded by Supervisor Hansen to adjourn the meeting.

Recorded by Judy Knudsen, Interim Department Director

February 18, 2021