

MINUTES (unapproved)

WAUPACA COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday, October 23, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

1. **Call meeting to order and Open Meeting Statement:** Chair Dennis Wengelski called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and gave the opening statement.
2. **Roll call Committee Members:** Present was Chair Wengelski, Vice Chair Rohan, and Supervisors Bosquez, Jaeger, and Malvik-Shower. Also present were Extension Waupaca County Educators: Christi Gabrilska, Hailee Paul, Penny Tank, Chris Viau, Area Extension Director, and Haley Nelson, Program Support.
3. **Review and accept Agenda:** Motion by Bosquez, second by Jaeger to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.
4. **Review previous meeting minutes (9/25/2023):** Motion by Jaeger, second by Malvik-Shower to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.
5. **Correspondence:** None.
6. **Administrative Department Report – Chris Viau, Area Extension Director**
 - a. **Facility and Staff Updates:** Viau shared that Tiffany Iliadis is on extended leave, and that there is a possibility for backfill. The Community Development position will be posted after the 1st of the year. Emily Schaeffer, LTE program assistant, has stepped back from her role, and Macey Popple will assume that position. Macey has worked for Penny over the summer, supporting 4-H program activities.
 - b. **Department Activities:**
 - i. **Discussion and Action related to the 2024 Contracted Services Agreement with UW-Madison Division of Extension:** Viau highlighted that this year's agreement is the same as the previous year, with a 3% increase in the contracted services budget and the inclusion of a \$5,000 AmeriCorps match. He also introduced an optional Delegation of Financial Budget Authority form labeled as Exhibit A, which will undergo review by Corporation Counsel and/or the Finance Director prior to the next meeting.
Motion by Jaeger, second by Malvik-Shower to recommend approval of the contracted services agreement. Motion passed 5-0.
 - c. **Area/Region/State Update:** Viau discussed concerns about potential disruptions to programs like FoodWise, which relies on federal funding, in the event of a long-term government shutdown. He mentioned that higher-level administrators are working on contingency plans to address such issues. Additionally, Viau informed the committee about an issue related to pay raises for University staff. He also reminded the committee about the upcoming all-colleague conference in Madison next week. There will be office coverage for the majority of the week.
7. **Educator Reports**
 - a. **Penny Tank:** Tank reported that the new enrollment year has begun and mentioned opportunities for members and leader recognition at the upcoming 4-H banquet. She noted the submission of record books, which highlight the members' activities throughout

the year. Tank also discussed ongoing 4-H promotion efforts, such as a bake sale and Clover Campaign display table at Tractor Supply during National 4-H week. The annual Pumpkin, Watermelon, Sunflower, and Poster contest took place. Approximately 12 members participated this year, and the 2023 Fairest of the Fair assisted with the judging. In addition, they held a kickball tournament for the first time, with over 40 members in attendance.

Tank also attended the annual National Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals conference in October, where she attended educational sessions and was recognized with two national awards, including the 25 Years of Service and the National Award for Excellence in Communication and Expressive Arts.

8. Outreach Education or Program reminders and announcements from staff:

Christi and Hailee shared that the annual food drive is underway, in collaboration with the Waupaca Hunger Network. There is a collection bin in the front lobby of the courthouse, the highway department, and the police department. The goal is to assemble and distribute 200 food bundles throughout the community. There are no eligibility requirements, but it is intended for individuals and families who fall between the cracks of qualifying for food benefits. They are also learning more about how to make the bundles more culturally relevant to meet the needs of all nominees.

9. Next meeting

- **Monthly Meeting . . . December 11, 2023**

10. Adjourn: Supervisor Jaeger moved to adjourn. Chair Wengelski declared the meeting adjourned at 9:49 AM.

Submitted by,

Amy Ebert
Program Support

Agriculture

- A study to learn about how much neonicotinoid pesticides from seed treatments and from field applications leach into groundwater in areas of sandy soil. Results will help WDNR regulate this class of pesticides to protect water supplies statewide and agricultural producers to design farm management practices to mitigate pesticide impacts.
- A Producer-Led watershed protection project for the Tomorrow/Waupaca River Watershed farmers, agribusiness professionals, and area residents where they learn about and adopt soil and water conservation practices to reduce nitrates entering the groundwater and the overall environmental impact of agriculture.

Community Development

Amy Ebert - Community Development Educator

***Community Development** provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their fullest potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. We educate in leadership development, organizational development, food systems, community economic development, local government education and much more. In short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.*

- A consultation for a community group on strategies and best practices for developing bylaws, board structure, and other key considerations in the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Through this consultation, the organization aims to achieve nonprofit status, increasing their organizational capacity.
- A consultation with a community member to guide them through a process involving public participation, where they received resources to enhance strategies for increased community engagement and informed decision-making.
- Coordinated the planning of the quarterly Wisconsin Towns Association meeting for the Waupaca County Unit, involving active collaboration with the Unit Chair and community stakeholders. Through this activity the members of the Waupaca County Unit can access educational opportunities on topics relevant to town officials.
- An interest survey developed for the Waupaca County Unit of the Wisconsin Towns Association, where the Unit Chair gained insight into the particular skills or resources towns are interested in learning about, as well as the most pressing issues confronting these communities. Through this activity the Unit Chair can better plan for relevant and effective programming for future Towns Association meetings.
- A consultation for a nonprofit organization on networking strategies to enhance support for a regional grant which would increase community connectedness, vitality, and overall wellbeing.
- Participated in the You Belong committee meeting, contributing to discussions and decision-making to promote community engagement and belonging.

Health and Well-Being



Christi Gabrilka - FoodWise Coordinator & Hailee Paul - FoodWise Nutrition Educator

***FoodWise** advances healthy eating habits, active lifestyles, and healthy community environments for families with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community, and systems levels. FoodWise reaches individuals and families through local community partners by providing nutrition classes in-person and virtually, indirect education (newsletters, etc.), and social media/marketing. FoodWise is an obesity prevention program that addresses policy, system, and environmental changes through local and state public health efforts.*

FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food

- A wellness initiative for students at Lincoln Elementary School that includes reusable water bottles for all students, lunchroom taste tests, and pedometers in fourth grade physical education. The goal of this effort is to increase consumption of fruits, vegetables, and water and increase physical activity levels among students.
- FoodWise supported the implementation of raised garden beds at the Waupaca Community Garden in Collaboration with Waupaca County Master Gardeners and the Living the Waupaca Way Coalition to grow food for the Waupaca Public Library's Free Little Pantry in order to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables for individuals and families with limited incomes and provide a space to learn about where our food comes from and how to grow your own food at home.
- Support to the Waupaca Farmers Market in collaboration with the Regional Farm Market Coordinator and the City of Waupaca to transition the organization out of a coalition and assemble a board to become their own non-profit and create a more sustainable system for the market to continue existing. FoodWise continues to provide support and promotion of the acceptance of EBT at the market and educate participants about incentive programs and adding fresh fruits and vegetables to their diet.
- Coordination, facilitation, and communications for a community collaborative ("Waupaca County Hunger Network") where individuals and agencies come together to build relationships and address needs and opportunities related to food security in Waupaca County. The goal of this effort is to improve food security through a well-connected emergency food system.

Positive Youth Development



Penny Tank- 4-H Program Educator

Positive Youth Development prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs such as 4-H clubs, groups, workshops, and camps build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow.

- A workshop for children in grades K-2 where they engaged in a story about talents and completed a hands-on project. Thirty children from around the county attended. This workshop helped Cloverbud project members gain a better understanding of a 4-H project meeting and meet children from around the county.
- 4-H Awards Night is a celebration event for 4-H members, club officers, Key Award winners, and Achievement winners where youth learned about others' accomplishments and were recognized for their own achievements. The celebration is designed for youth to reflect on all of their life skills and achievements from the 4-H year.
- Planning for a summer camp for 4-H members of Iowa, Portage, and Waupaca counties that provides an opportunity for youth to explore their SPARKS while developing a strong sense of BELONGING in the 4-H Program and develop strong relationships with caring adults and teen leaders. We also wrote a grant application between Portage, Waupaca, and Iowa counties for \$2,000 to expand summer camp programming for youth attending camp.
- An open house where those not familiar with the 4-H program will learn more. This effort at the Waupaca Public Library was designed to introduce families to learn more about 4-H and interact with current members and leaders at a variety of stations. Thirty-three youth and adults attended.
- A countywide recreation event where 4-H members were encouraged to work as a team. The goals of this kickball event were relationship building and belonging between youth from across the county.