

FOREST COUNTY UWEXT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE: FOREST COUNTY UWEXT COMMITTEE
DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022
TIME: 4:30 PM
PLACE: COUNTY BOARD ROOM, ROOM 107

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gretzinger called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

UWEXT Committee: Cindy Gretzinger, Ron Karl, Tom Tallier, Brian Piasini; Bill Chaney (absent)

OTHERS PRESENT: None

UWEXT: Michelle Gobert (present), Amber Rehberg (present), Terri Kolb (present via Zoom)

OTHERS PRESENT: None

APPROVE AGENDA:

Motion by Tallier to approve agenda, seconded by Piasini. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment; None in attendance

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES from the August 8, 2022, UWEXT Committee. Motion by Karl to approve the August 8, 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Piasini. All present voting AYE. Motion carried. Tallier asked for update on transportation agreement with the Aging Department. Aging Committee approved and Michelle is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with UW-Madison.

UWEXT

Area Extension Director Updates from Amber Rehberg

a. Personnel Updates & Discussion

1-Community Development Position – position still open; working with the Division of Extension Institutes to scope and find ways to build out position to meet greater needs with limited resources available.

-Committee requested that Area Extension Director explore option/possibility of using CDI funds to build up the Health and Well Being position from 27% to 77%. Area Extension Director will explore options and report back to committee on different possibilities.

2-FoodWise Educator & NEW Administrator Position Update – Due to failed searches in Area 3 & 4, Extension has adapted the position to an Administrator Position that will cover Forest, Florence, Oneida, Lac du Flambeau, Vilas, Lincoln, Langlade, Price, and Taylor. This will allow for a designated FoodWise Educator in Forest County. The FoodWise Administrator position is an internal recruitment. Once the administrator is hired, we will be recruiting and hiring a Forest County Educator. In the meantime, Terri Kolb, HWB Educator is providing some health education in places where FoodWise Programming was provided.

3-PT Support Staff – Depending on the Resolution later in the agenda, we will be working with the Personnel Committee to scope an LTE Position to support Extension Programming.

b. Resolution to Carry-Over Funds from FY2022 to FY2023 – Due to the Community Development Educator Vacancy, there will be excess funds in that line item. Requesting funds be carried over to hire a limited term employee to help with office support so educators have more time in the community and working with community partners. Tom Tallier moved to approve and Ron Karl seconded the motion on the Resolution to Carry-Over Funds for FY2022 to FY2023 to the full County Board. All present voted AYE. Motion carried.

c. Forest County Focus – Extension will be working on an Educational Newsletter in December called “Forest County by the Numbers.” It will highlight the different reports and assessments; explaining and giving an overview of the data, along with how the data is collected and what it means for Forest County. The newsletter will be shared with county board members and community members, agencies and partners.

Tallier shared that he appreciated the August Educational Newsletter on Mental Health.

d. FY2023 UW-Madison Division of Extension Contract. Not many changes. CDI Educator position in contract. Ron Karl moved to approve FY2023 Contract Between Oneida County and Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System and Brian Piasini seconded the motion. All present voted Aye. Motion carried.

Program Reports

- a. 4-H Youth Development – Gobert reported on multiple programmatic efforts throughout the county. Working with students at the Laona High School on Food Security and Sustainability through the Well-Connected Communities Grant. Looking at grant to help fund aquaponics. Continue to work with coalitions to lift up youth voice, youth and community needs and youth mental health. New 4-H Club in Argonne; programming each month. Holding Clover Connections at local libraries for early childhood learners and parents. Also providing early childhood education programming for Wabeno Head Start due to FoodWise staff vacancy.
- b. Health and Well Being – Kolb talked about Mental Health Stigma Campaign that is being worked on with additional state support and resources. Also lifted up the Community Health Assessment and the priority focus on mental health and access to care. Continuing Strong

Bodies programming with recruited volunteers in order to expand reach and access. Not only positive physical outcomes, but also strong social connections for mental health and well-being. Leading We COPE for individuals providing care for others and Stepping On, a falls prevention program. New series with Head Start parents on "Raising a Healthy Eater.

- c. National Digital Navigator Corps – Failed search for full time Digital Navigator. Position reposting and hope to have someone hired in the position by end of year. Great opportunity for digital literacy and additional education around technology and digital skills.
- d. USDA Community Business/Economic Development Effort in Wabeno. Grant that was written by previous Community Development Educator. Portage and Waukesha County Community Development Educators supporting the programming and providing leadership in bringing community members together. Upcoming meeting in December to focus on next steps and greatest economic needs in the Wabeno area.
- e. Food Pantries. Gretzinger asked about area Food Pantries and Extension ability to help educate and promote the area resources. Staff will consider ways to get the information out.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Update on Community Development and Health and Well Being.

SET MEETING DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

A discussion to set the next meeting date, time, and location in January. Date and time to be determined once information is received regarding vacant positions and possibilities for moving forward.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Karl to adjourn, second by Piasini. All present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the next scheduled UWEXT Committee Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Rehberg
Area Extension Director