

FOREST COUNTY UWEXT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE: FOREST COUNTY UWEXT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2024

TIME: 2:00 PM

PLACE: COUNTY BOARD ROOM, ROOM 107

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson, Ron Karl, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

UWEXT Committee: Tom Tallier, Ron Karl, Brian Piasini, Bill Chaney, Cindy Gretzinger

OTHERS PRESENT: None

UWEXT: Amber Rehberg (present), Steve Watson (present), Anne Williams (present), Mary Stys (Phone), Terri Kolb (Phone)

APPROVE AGENDA:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES from December 27, 2023, UWEXT Committee Meeting. Motion by Chaney to approve meeting minutes, seconded by Piasiani. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

UWEXT

- I. Area Extension Director Updates from Amber Rehberg
 - A. 175 Extension Northwoods Forum; May 7, 2024 at Lake of the Torches Resort Casino – Lac du Flambeau; 8:30-4:30 a.m. Opportunity to connect with researchers and educators who provide UW–Madison resources to northern Wisconsin. Registration Open until April 19: <https://extension.wisc.edu/northwoods/>. Three Tracks to choose from: Track 1: Local Community Infrastructure and Economy; Track 2: Enhancing Natural Resources; Track 3: Quality of Life
 - B. County Government Day is scheduled for April 15 to engage middle and high school students in Civic Engagement. Partnering with all three school districts. Participants have been invited to return for the County Board Reorganizational Meeting on Tuesday, April 16. Extension will continue to explore opportunities to engage young people in county government and community engagement.

C. Forest County Staff Updates

1. CDI Position:

- a) Final Interviews have been held and waiting to offer position until after Referendum in order to be clear and transparent. Great candidates and excited for future opportunities. Programming will focus on Leadership and Organizational Development, with a youth component.

2. Additional Office Space Needs: Staff is growing and some additional work/office space is needed. Resolution utilizing unused funds from 2023, will allow for the building of some cubicles/desk space in the small conference room next to Extension Office.

D. 4-H Club Finances –Amber & Nora are working on a plan and possible DRAFT Resolution. Unique situation and want to ensure we do what is best for everyone and not create additional work, but adhere to and align with State 4-H Policies and Best Practices.

II. Program Reports

A. Digital Navigator – Steve Watson (1.0 FTE)

- 1. Program going well. Working on planning for a Forest County Digital Equity Plan and pursuing future funding through the PSC. Continue to increase number of client meetings and educational programming. Since the inception of the program there have been 230 events; reaching over 830 community members. Distributed 22 devices. Working with Mole Lake/Sokaogon Chippewa with distributing I-Pads for Elders and providing some support and education. Leading a Cyber Security Training in Carter for Forest County Potawatomi; open to public, feel free to join. Will work with James to help support county board members with i-pad transition.

B. Healthy Communities Coordinator – Karly Harrison (.8 FTE) (Terri Kolb)

- 1. Out on Parental Leave Until May
- 2. Mental Health – Karly has met with AWARE; Both Wabeno and Crandon have received funds for Mental Health Planning and Support and will have Mental Health Navigators. Exploring and considering ways for Extension to partner and support efforts.
- 3. Produce Food Hub – Working to bring more fresh produce to Forest County that is accessible to all and available through food pantries and other community food sources. Fits in with the focus on Food Security and Nutrition Access. Food Resource Guide is complete and now using it to assess Forest County assets and opportunity areas. Major gap at this point is food access for youth in the summer; exploring possible options

and ways we can partner and work with the schools and other community groups.

4. StrongBodies & BINGOcize – Providing leadership. Was trained in leading BINGOcize and held some initial BINGOcize sessions to promote and will follow upon return from Parental Leave. Spring StrongBodies starting; continue to support volunteer leaders and provide leadership for overall programming.

C. 4-H Youth Development – Anne Williams (.5 FTE)

1. 4th Grade Citizenship Programming – Built out a strong citizenship and connection program for ALL Forest County 4th Graders; engaging older youth leaders and community members.

D. FoodWise – Mary Stys (.2 FTE)

1. Provided lessons for Wabeno and Crandon 4th Grade Classes; 5 nutrition lessons in all 5 classrooms. (Laona does not qualify for programming in 2023/2024, but Extension assesses each year.)
2. Planning and teaching Nutrition Lesson in Crandon and Wabeno 1st Grade Classes in April.
3. Working with CAN Coalition to assemble Grow Bags for WIC and Head Start families.
4. Participate in Forest County Health Department with Health Department Open House.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Budget; 4-H Club Financial Plan and/or Resolution; CDI Educator Hire

SET MEETING DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

Coordinate with Land Conservation Meeting as needed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Tallier to adjourn, second by Chaney. All present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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