

FOREST COUNTY UWEXT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE: FOREST COUNTY UWEXT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, July 24, 2024

TIME: 2:00 PM

PLACE: COUNTY BOARD ROOM, ROOM 107

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Ron Skallerud, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

UWEXT Committee: Present - Tom Tallier, Ron Karl, Brian Piasini, Bill Chaney, Ron Skallerud

Absent - Scott Goode

OTHERS PRESENT: None

UWEXT: Amber Rehberg (present), Steve Watson (present), Anne Williams (present), Karly Harrison (Present)

APPROVE AGENDA:

Motion by Ron Karl to forgo the reading of the agenda and to approve the agenda with the chair having the ability to keep a fluid agenda, seconded by Tom Tallier. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES from March 27, 2024, UWEXT Committee Meeting. Motion by Bill Chaney to approve meeting minutes, seconded by Tom Tallier. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

UWEXT

- I. Area Extension Director Updates from Amber Rehberg
 - A. 2024 UW-Extension Budget Review – Extension is significantly under budget for FY2024 due to staffing. When the referendum did not pass, we did not fill the Community Development Educator position. That position is still open and Forest County will not be billed for it until it is filled.
 - B. 4-H Club Finances – Cheyney moved to have Nora & Amber create a resolution for the full county board to create a reserve account for 4-H finances and Piasini seconded the motion. All present voting AYE. Amber and Nora will work on a DRAFT Resolution for the next Extension Committee Meeting. It is unique situation and we 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.

- C. UW-Madison Division of Extension Partnership Agreement – Committee members received agreement in advance. It is a fluid document that outlines some aspects of the relationship Extension has with our county partners. Discussed having a discussion about the partnership regularly to ensure Forest County Extension is meeting the local needs of the communities we serve. Tallier shared that it is really important that there is more coordination, collaboration with other committees to ensure we are not duplicating services. Extension often supports and/or leads the educational components of other department work.
- D. Use of Reserve Account for Fair Barn Improvements – Cheyney moved to approve using no more than \$1200 from the Fair Reserve Building Account and Piasini seconded it. The 4-H Horse Club shared that there are some animal safety concerns and would like to put some additional wire fencing between the animals, and also do some work on the arena. Motion passed with 4 AYES and 1 OPPOSED. Amber will work with Amy and Erin on securing materials and reimbursement.
- E. Forest County Staff Updates
 - 1. CDI Position:
 - a) Position is being held open until FY2025 Budget is passed. Working to explore some different funding options with Extension in the future. Ron shared that it is important to elevate that we do NOT have any UW System schools within 100 miles; necessitating an even greater need.
 - 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. Once decision is made on CDI Educator; Tallier moved to forward to Building Committee and Karl seconded it. All present voted AYE, motion carried.

II. Program Reports

- A. Digital Navigator – Steve Watson (1.0 FTE)
 - 1. Program continues to go well. Continues to distribute devices; just put in an order for 30 more tablets and 30 more laptops. Led and/or is planning to lead educational programs/info sessions at ADRC Open House, Safety Fair, Parent Café, National Night Out. Working on a plan for Scam & Fraud Awareness. Continue to increase number of client meetings Finalizing the development of the training for the Mole Lake/Sokaogon Chippewa that will accompany the I-pads that are going to be distributed

to Elders. Will work with James to help support county board members with i-pad transition.

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

1. StrongBodies & BINGOcize – Providing leadership. Leading a BINGOcize Program in Laona. Currently volunteers leading StrongBodies in Armstrong Creek and Crandon. Working with Project Aware which is a five year grant to see how Extension can support, so when the grant ends the support around mental health for youth and families can continue. Finished the Food Resource Guide and continuing to work with coalitions on food insecurity.

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

1. Supporting 4-H Club Members and Volunteers in summer programming. Collaborated with partners to lead a 4th Grade Field Trip at Forest County Potawatomi Farm. End of school year celebration focusing on youth connecting with the community and fellow classmates throughout the county.

D. FoodWise – Mary Stys (.2 FTE)

1. Working with Aging Department to distribute Stockboxes. Providing educational programming for Head Start parents and children. Building relationships with farmers market to explore options for low income. Finished in school educational programs and led a session for the 4th Grade Field Trip.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Budget, Staff Travel Requests, FY2025 Budget Review, 4-H Reserve Fund Resolution

SET MEETING DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 23 at 2 p.m. Future meetings will be quarterly (October and/or as needed in coordination with Land Conservation.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Ron Karl to adjourn, second by Tom Tallier. All present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the next scheduled UWEXT Committee Meeting on October 23, 2024.