

**IRON COUNTY EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Iron County Courthouse, Hurley, Wisconsin 54534**  
**Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by William Thomas.

**Roll Call and Introductions:** Roll call was taken by Extension Office Manager Rebecca Holm. Committee members present: William Thomas, Opal Roberts, Paul Mullard, Brad Matson. Committee member excused: Karl Krall. Also in attendance: Neil Klemme, Amy Nosal, Holm, Deb Leonard, Kathy Beeksma, Darrin Kimbler, Will Andresen and County Board Chair, Joe Pinardi. Staff member excused: Heidi Ungrodt.

**Acknowledge proper meeting posting:** Holm acknowledged proper meeting posting.

**Motion to approve meeting minutes for January 26, 2017:** Mullard moved to approve minutes for January 26, 2017, seconded by Roberts. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion to approve financial reports:**

a) Extension

b) 4-H and Youth Clubs

Committee members received Extension and 4-H and Youth Clubs financial reports through March 31, 2017. Matson moved to approve financial reports for Extension and 4-H and Youth Programs, seconded by Mullard. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion to approve the 2016 Annual Report to the Iron County Board of Supervisors:**

Roberts moved to approve the 2016 Annual Report to the Iron County Board of Supervisors, seconded by Mullard. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** No comment.

**Update on staffing of Iron County UW-Extension:** FoodWise Coordinator update:

- Six finalists narrowed down to three
- Interviews taking place in Ashland on May 8, 2017
- Start date to be determined - possibly in June
- The three finalists are very qualified

**Update on reorganization of Cooperative Extension:** Andresen updated the Committee on the ongoing process of the re-organization of Extension. He reported that there are three buckets of changes, two of which affect counties:

- Geography - moving from county focus to more of an area model
- Programming - how will programming be delivered using this area model
- Operations - HR and budgeting

Areas once thought to be for programming and administrative functions will be changed to more of an administrative function only, which Andresen thinks is a positive change. Area Directors will negotiate individually with each of the four counties in our area. Educators will be able to program outside of their area model, which is another positive change.

The new model will have a Dean, and two assistant Deans. The Regional Director Position will be eliminated and replaced with the Area Extension Directors. Andresen is hopeful that this creates a more direct line between the counties and decision makers and free up current educators that have a 25% role as department head to do 100% programming. Cooperative Extension is in the process of hiring the Area Extension Directors.

- There are 40 applicants for 18 positions
- Hoping to hire internally vs. externally
- Goal is to offer these positions in June, with a possible start date of July 1
- Shortly after, area directors will meet with each county to determine what their needs are

Another proposed idea is moving from four program areas to two - CRED, 4H, Family Living, Agriculture/Horticulture could be changed to Agriculture/Natural Resources and a combination of Community Development, Youth Development and Family Living. There will be sub categories under each one.

Feedback opportunity - Thomas asked if Andresen will return to his previous role since his director position will be eliminated. His role will transition starting July 1 - Dec 31. He will have to find another role in the system. His role from July-Dec will be to help the Extension Directors with training, meeting county staff and committee members. Andresen thanked the committee for their patience and support during this process.

## **Agent Reports**

**4-H Youth Development** - Klemme reported updates on the following:

- Robotics Team
  - The team finished 19<sup>th</sup> out of 68 teams at the St. Louis World Championships.
  - Seniors that participated are able to apply for 52 million dollars in scholarships.
  - Program prepares students for careers in related fields, such as mechanic, machining, engineering, fabrication, etc.
  - However, the program is cost prohibitive. Klemme will be looking into other funding options, such as corporate sponsors (GE), school contributions, and funding through the State of WI.
- Summer Programming
  - Camp programming is underway. There are twenty-four high school counselors this year, ten of which graduate this summer.
  - Klemme decided to have a counselor in training program, where 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be working with the current camp counselors, to ready them for next year.
  - Trail Blazers starts in June. With the possibility of a piece of property in Mercer being donated to Iron County, Klemme would like to use that as a trailblazer meeting place to do programming with the kids.
  - Summer interns - Felicia Herlevi will be starting on May 15<sup>th</sup> and Emily Murphy starts on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Herlevi will be organizing the Iron County Summer Youth Camp. Murphy will be planning the Outpost program. They will work together on Trail Blazers and day camps.
  - Klemme stated that in addition to our summer assistants, we will also have two summer interns, who will work with Trail Blazers and Garden to Market.

**Community Resource Development & Iron County Interim Community Educator:** Nosal reported updates on the following:

- RISE - Young Professionals Presentation at Sharon's Coffee Company on May 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Opportunity for Nosal to work with Kelly Klein and some of his economic development networks.
- Revamping the Fe Live Life Website
  - A partnership with City of Ironwood but will expand to the entire Gogebic region.
- Trail Progress
  - Nosal is anxiously waiting to hear status of the Gogebic Range Health Foundation grant application, which will be used to purchase waterfront property off Highway 51. Decision should be made mid-June.
- Trail Design Charrette
  - Nosal continues describing successes of the trail design charrette at various UW-Extension conferences. Praised the youth that get involved in our programming.
- Community Development Society Conference in Montana
  - Nosal and Klemme applied to present on youth engagement in development projects at the conference in June. While Nosal stays in Iron County to focus on summer programming, Klemme and two of the students that participated in the design charrette will be presenting at the conference. They also plan to go around small communities and use the Youth First Impressions Tool (YFIT).
- Nosal was invited by Theresa Schmidt from the Mercer Library and the Mercer Area Connections (MAC) group to help them move forward with some projects.

**FoodWise:** Nosal praised Deb for working without coordinator for so many years but said that they are excited to have a person come on board as coordinator in the coming months. They also reported on the following:

- Garden to Market kickoff
  - Nosal plans on doing more live cooking demos, since the Farmer's Market now has electricity. This will open up more programming opportunities.
- Youth and Senior Programming
  - Leonard's school nutrition programs are winding down in this month. Senior dining summer programming will go on as usual.

**Horticulture:** Kimber updated the committee on the upcoming events:

- Horticulture Therapy Summit - March 2017
  - Great group of participants and speakers. Lots of positivity and excitement. Kimbler thinks that there is an opportunity to make this an annual event.
- Growing season is here!
  - Lots of gardening questions and soil samples have been coming in.
- Range Master Gardeners
  - Have been busy and are ready to start planting projects in community
- Programming in Mercer
  - Mercer Community Garden and a herb talk in Boulder Junction for the Mercer Gardening Club

- Community Garden
  - Kimbler has been working with Bill Nasi regarding moving and improving the community garden. Letters sent to members of the garden and directing them to available plots in Norrie garden for the time being.
- Master Gardeners class will start in the fall

**Family Living:** Beeksma updated on behalf of herself and Ungrodt. She mentioned that this could be an indication of how the future model might look; having teams of educators working across counties but still providing the support we are looking for in our county.

- Parenting and Financial Education Classes
  - Minimal attendees. Trying to determine the best time to reach people that would benefit from these classes.
- ACES – Adverse Childhood Experiences
  - Very successful, with presentations at the Hurley in-service and a presentation with Dove, Bad River Social Services, New Day Shelter in attendance.
- Food Preservation Classes
  - Ungrodt, a Master Canner, plans to start food preservation work in Iron County this summer.
- Broadband Committee
  - Beeksma has connected with the Iron County Broadband Committee. She states that UW-Extension plans to support and sponsor the Broadband Fair that will take place in July.
- Cancer Clear and Simple
  - To be offered in May at senior dining sites in Hurley, Mercer and Saxon.

**Department Head:** Klemme reported on the following:

- Klemme and Beeksma led an in-service at the Hurley School District in February
- Extension office will be rearranged before summer staff starts
- FoodWise Coordinator
  - Pinardi inquired about where the funding will come from for the FoodWise Coordinator position. Klemme stated FoodWise is funded through the federal government, not the county or state.

**Schedule next Extension Education Committee meeting:** Next Extension Education Committee meeting will be Thursday July 13, 2017.

**Adjourn:** Roberts moved to adjourn meeting, seconded by Mullard. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.