

## **IRON COUNTY EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Iron County Courthouse, Hurley Wisconsin 54534**

**Wednesday, September 16, 2020**

*Zoom Conference option also offered.*

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Extension Office Manager, Rebecca Holm.

**Roll Call and Introductions:** Roll call was taken by Holm. Committee members present: William Thomas, Opal Roberts, Ken Saari. Committee members excused: Jamey Francis, Larry Youngs. Also in attendance: Neil Klemme, Amy Nosal, Deb Leonard, Darrin Kimbler, Mary Pardee, Stephanie Bakker, County Board Chair Joe Pinardi. Iron County Youth Leadership Council members present: Jackie Bradley, Adeline Huybrecht. Iron County Youth Leadership Council members excused: Kaitlyn Binz, Molly Hohner, Ezra Manzer.

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

**Motion to approve meeting minutes for May 15, 2020:** Saari moved to approve minutes for May 15, 2020, seconded by Roberts. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion to approve financial reports:** Committee members received **Extension** and **4-H and Youth Clubs** financial reports through July 31, 2020. Roberts moved to approve financial reports for Extension and 4-H and Youth Programs, seconded by Saari. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** N/A

**Area Extension Director Report:** Pardee reported on the following:

- COVID Update
  - Extension staff are still telecommuting but come to the office periodically for programming, printing, etc.
  - Office manager, Rebecca Holm continues to work from the office on a fulltime basis.
  - Extension Iron County staff continues to meet for weekly staff meetings via zoom and most participate in Dean Karl Martin's all colleague zoom meetings twice a month.
  - Furlough
    - Iron County will receive a credit for furlough time that educators have taken, which will be reflected in the 2<sup>nd</sup> contract invoice.
  - Programming
    - Educators continue to offer virtual programming via zoom.
    - They can also offer in person, indoor programming to audiences under 10 and outdoor programming to groups under 50, using a 10 person "pod" model.
    - In person programming must be approved by Pardee and Institute Directors.
- Statewide Extension is still in a hiring freeze.

### **Educator Reports**

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

- Recognized Tabbi Morello and Gavin Ransanici for their work in providing fun, educational programming when faced with the limitations COVID-19 presented.
- Summer Programming
  - Babysitter Training – 14 youth participated
  - Iron County Adventure Week – 8 youth participated
  - STEM Day Camp – 8 youth participated
- Superior Days Evaluation
- 4-H Program updates
- National Social Capital Research Team
- Iron County Fair cancellation
  - Penokee Range Livestock Club still held their livestock auction.
  - 4-H youth showed their projects at the Iron County Farmer's Market.

**Community Development:** Nosal reported on the following:

- Trail Development
  - ICORE is waiting to hear back about the DNR grant that was recently submitted. If awarded funds will be used to purchase a section of the railroad grade to extend the non-motorized trail from Hurley to Montreal.
  - Numerous updates were made at the Hurley trailhead, thanks to Gogebic Range Health Foundation (GRHF) grant funding.
- Community Health in COVID-19
  - Nosal participates on behalf of Iron County in weekly online community conversation meetings hosted by the GRHF as a way to connected to community partners during the pandemic.
  - Highlights of Taking Care of You
    - Working with Extension colleagues from around the state to provide this program to Gogebic Community College (GCC) nursing students and Iron County audiences.
- Collaborative Office Programs
  - Nosal, Bakker, Leonard and Holm worked with MSU Extension and GCC to prove access to UW-Madison Extension food preservation information, which can be accessed on Extension Iron County's website, [www.iron.extension.wisc.edu](http://www.iron.extension.wisc.edu).
  - Thought of the Day emails
    - Nosal and Holm continued supporting county colleagues with weekly emails that included, FoodWise Friday Recipes, COVID, stress, and health related items.
  - FeLiveLife.org Community Calendar
  - Maple Fest 2021
  - NICER
    - Statement of Integrity and Respect, created by the Iron County Youth Leadership Council, with support from Klemme, Nosal, members of NICER and multiple community partners.
    - NICER actively recruiting 2 youth members to serve on the NICER Board of Directors

Pardee asked that Holm report on collaborative programs that she is currently working on:

- Explore Northern Iron County Backyard Adventure Month
  - Collaboration between NICER and Extension Iron County
  - Holm took the lead on this event, with support from NICER members Kelly Traczyk and Ken Saari.
- Iron County Mobile Food Pantry
  - New partnership with Roger Kolehmainen/Union Station in Ironwood
    - Kolehmainen and his volunteers pick up and deliver meals to approximately 30 Iron county residents at South Gate and Garden Estates apartments, extending food security outreach in the community.
  - USDA Dairy Distribution at the Hurley School
    - Holm and Iron County Mobile Food Pantry volunteers Joyce Gayan and Duane Gulan volunteered at the distribution on September 21 when the school was short volunteers.

**FoodWise:** Bakker reported on the following:

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- The FoodWise team (Stephanie Bakker, Deb Leonard, and Sarah Tarkington) continues to attend weekly zoom meetings to connect with colleagues and partners.
  - All three ladies have been part of a Statewide FoodWise workgroup
- COVID reporting
- FoodWise Friday Recipes
- FoodWise monthly newsletter
  - Bakker decided to consolidate their resources into one monthly newsletter to streamline their outreach.
  - Thanked Holm for her work in designing the newsletter and FoodWise Friday Recipe webpage.
  - Receiving a lot of great feedback from partners and colleagues.
- StrongBodies
- Update on Deb Leonard's work, as she could not attend the meeting.
  - Continued work in the Hurley School Garden this summer.
  - Worked with the FoodWise Team to facilitate some virtual cooking classes in partnership Joy Schelble (FRTEP), Bad River Head Start Program and Mashkisibi Boys and Girls Club.
  - Looking forward to fall programming at the Hurley School, Hurley Head Start and area senior centers.

**Horticulture:** Kimbler reported on the following:

- Horticulture
  - Continues to receive insect, soil and plant questions from community members.
- National Master Gardener Conference
  - Attended virtually via zoom.
- Range Master Gardeners
  - Had many limitations over the summer, however, limited no contact gardening projects have been approved.

- Maintained and weeded gardens near Iron Horse Trail Head, Claire d' Loon
- Member of the Statewide Master Gardener Steering Committee
  - Revamping curriculum and the standards for becoming a Master Gardener volunteer.
  - Breaking it into two different parts
    - Foundations of Horticulture; for anyone interested in becoming a better gardener.
    - Master Gardener on boarder; for anyone interested in making a difference in the community through gardening.
- Iron County Farmers Market
- Offering two virtual presentations in collaboration with the Mercer Library at the end of the month
  - Growing Garlic in the Northwoods
  - Put Your Northern Garden to Bed
- Maple Syrup News
  - Working with local maple producers on upcoming projects.
  - In the process of creating maple tapping educational videos, which will be shared next month.
    - Learned how to add closed captioning to Extension educational videos.
  - Hurley School
    - MSU Extension partner Jesse Randall received a USDA grant that will be used to partner with area schools on maple production.
    - Around \$25,000 is allotted to the Hurley School.
      - Plans include building a sugar shack, maple trainings for staff, etc.

**Motion to approve Statement of Community Integrity and Respect and forward to Iron County Board of Supervisors:** Klemme, Nosal and Iron County Youth Leadership Council member, Adeline Huybrecht reported on the work that the Iron County Youth Leadership Council (ICYLC), Extension Iron County, and NICER put into the Statement of Community Integrity and Respect project, with the support of multiple partners. Roberts moved to approve the Statement of Community Integrity and Respect, seconded by Saari. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion to forward proposed 2021 budget to finance committee:** Pardee reviewed the proposed 2021 budget for Extension and 4-H and Youth Clubs along with descriptions of line items, which committee members received in their packets. Francis moved to approve the budget, seconded by Roberts. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion to approve Extension Iron County 2021 contract and have Iron County Extension Education Committee Chair, William Thomas, sign before year end:** Pardee reported that the contract is in the approval process in Madison. Roberts moved to approve the 2021 contract and have Iron County Extension Education Committee Chair, William Thomas sign it before year end, seconded by Francis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Schedule next Extension Education Committee meeting:** Next Extension Education Committee meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

**Adjourn:** Roberts moved to adjourn meeting, seconded by Saari. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.