

IRON COUNTY EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Iron County Courthouse, Hurley Wisconsin 54534

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Zoom Conference option also offered.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. by William Thomas.

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

Acknowledge proper meeting posting: Holm acknowledged proper meeting posting.

Motion to approve meeting minutes for September 16, 2020: Roberts moved to approve minutes for September 16, 2020, seconded by Saari. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mary Pardee stated that the overage in funds leftover in the contracted services line item was due to a credit issued from UW-Madison for Extension educator furlough days taken during the pandemic. Pardee stated that Extension staff will also be recommended to take furlough days in 2021.

Public Comment: N/A

Area Extension Director Report: Pardee reported on the following:

- Much of the state is slowly transitioning to working from the office and participating in in-person meetings.
 - Office manager, Rebecca Holm continues to work fulltime out of the Extension office while educators have begun to work from the office on staggered days throughout the week.
- Programming approval guidelines have loosened.
 - County programs with 10 and under participants do not need approval from the state level.
- Ashland County's FoodWise Nutrition Educator position is vacant again. Bakker and Pardee are in the process of posting the position.
- Ashland County is having a referendum in the spring to discuss whether to keep Extension services.

Pardee recognized Extension Iron County staff for stepping up during the pandemic and continuing to provide quality programming to the community and state. She also thanked the Extension Education Committee for their continued support of Extension County.

Educator Reports

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

- SISU Endurance Team Ski Club
 - Registrations
 - 35 youth members and 13 coaches have enrolled in the 9-week program, which takes place on Sunday afternoons (Jan-Feb) at ABR Ski Trails.
 - Ski Checkout
 - Klemme was able to add to the 4-H ski equipment inventory, thanks to grant funding received from the Gogebic Range United Way.
 - 25 members were able to check skis out this year, with only one member having to rent equipment each week from ABR.
 - Wolverine Wednesdays
 - 12 SET members have been participating in this optional ski day, which takes place at Wolverine Ski Trails.
 - Hats & Throat Coats
 - Members and coaches received new SET ski club hats and throat coats (neck warmers) which also served a dual purpose, warmth and COVID mask.
 - Inky Lunta 74 Challenge
 - Klemme discussed this event, which honors Gary Engstrom, a SET running club coach who recently passed away from COVID-19. Funds raised at this event will benefit local youth programs, the SISU Endurance Team being one of them.
- Summer Programming
 - Guidelines will be shared in April 2021 regarding summer programming, such as overnight camp programs and 4-H fair participation.
 - Klemme is looking for two individuals to fill summer staff positions in 2021.

Community Development: Nosal reported on the following:

- Trail Development
 - The Wisconsin DNR grant application to secure funding for the purchase of a railroad grade between Hurley and Montreal has been accepted.
 - Partnership between ICORE, City of Hurley and Extension Iron County.
 - Although the grant has been accepted, project partners have not been successful in negotiating a sales agreement with Canadian National Railway Company.
 - The DNR has offered a waiver of retroactivity explaining the circumstances and it will be included in the next application.
 - Partners are hopeful for upcoming conversations with Canadian National.
- Community Health & COVID-19
 - Nosal participates in an online weekly meeting hosted by the Gogebic Range Health Foundation (GRHF).
 - Currently participating in the stress management program, WeCOPE, that Nosal hopes to provide to Iron County audiences (professionals, caregivers, young adults, etc.).
 - FeLiveLife.org
 - Added a new section, “Curious about ways to support the community?” that highlights local efforts of partner organizations, such as NICER-Northern Iron

County Engaged Residents community garden fundraiser and the Giving Tree collaboration with Iron County Human Services.

- Collaborative Programs
 - Statement of Integrity & Respect, partnership between NICER, Klemme, Iron County Youth Leadership Council and Iron County Board of Supervisors.
 - Under the direction of the GRHF, Nosal is part of a multidisciplinary team to understand and target community health improvements.

FoodWise: Bakker reported on the following:

- Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch, October 2020
 - Leonard and Bakker led separate Great Apple Crunch event at Hurley Head Start and the Bayfield School District.
 - Extension Iron County staff took part in the “crunch” during their weekly Zoom staff meeting in October 2020 and shared a screenshot of their Zoom to promote the event on the Extension Iron County Facebook page.
- Continues to be part of the school policy, systems and environment state workgroup.
- Completed FoodWise annual report, which highlights Leonard and Bakker’s work in Iron County.
- FoodWise monthly newsletter
 - Thanked Rebecca Holm for her continued help on the monthly newsletters.
- StrongBodies
 - Bakker is partnering with two Douglas County FoodWise staff members to deliver an 8-week virtual strength training program which will be available to Iron, Ashland, and Bayfield County audiences late January through early March 2021.
- Bakker and Leonard attended:
 - Extension All-Colleague Virtual Conference
 - Area 1 Virtual Holiday Gathering
- Leonard led a series of virtual nutrition lessons with elementary students in Mercer and Hurley School Districts.

Horticulture: Kimbler submitted a report highlighting the following:

- Held two online presentations in collaboration with the Mercer Library in October 2020
 - Growing Garlic in Northern Wisconsin
 - Preparing Your Gardens for Winter
 - Both presentations were successful, with over 100 participants between the two.
- Part of a statewide team of educators who developed and piloted online replacement curriculum for Level One Master Gardener Volunteer Training called, “Foundations in Horticulture.”
 - 150 students from select counties included in the pilot.
 - This class will be offered to Iron County residents in the fall.
 - Open to all residents, not just those interested in the Master Gardener Volunteer Program.
- Part of a statewide team that developed a new enrollment system for the new and continuing Master Gardeners.
 - This will include a new online enrollment process, similar to 4HOnline.
- Hosted Brian Hudelson, UW-Madison Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic Director, for a webinar about early season diseases of landscape plants.
 - 220 live participants from around the state.

- Kimbler created an introductory presentation of images showcasing the natural beauty of Iron County, shown to participants prior to the webinar.
- Assisted community members with horticulture, agriculture and maple syrup questions.
- Worked on several basic how-to videos about maple syrup making, which will be shared in coming weeks.

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 3:00 p.m.