

IRON COUNTY EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Iron County Courthouse, Hurley Wisconsin 54534
Monday, August 12, 2024

Approved: 9/6/2024

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Roxanne Lutgen.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken by Rebecca Holm. Committee members present: William Thomas, Roxanne Lutgen, Jamey Francis, Doug Swartz, Paul Mullard. Also in attendance: Neil Klemme, Deborah Leonard, Mary Pardee, Joseph Miller, Bruce Spangenberg, Stephanie Bakker.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited

Acknowledge proper meeting posting: Holm acknowledged proper meeting posting.

Motion to approve meeting minutes for May 13, 2024: Francis moved to approve minutes for May 13, 2024, seconded by Swartz. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve financial reports: Committee members received **Extension** and **4-H and Youth Clubs** financial reports through July 31, 2024. Francis moved to approve financial reports for Extension and 4-H and Youth Programs, seconded by Thomas. Motion carried unanimously.

Area Extension Director Report: Pardee reported on the following:

- Presented to the Iron County Board of Supervisors during the May 2024 meeting, explaining the county/Extension partnership.
- Attended three Iron County department head meetings.
- Met with Roxanne Lutgen via Zoom to discuss ongoing efforts to reduce the Iron County budget deficit and if there are additional funding sources that UW-Extension can offer.
- 2025 budget update
 - Pardee reported on 2025 budget reductions/changes in the following accounts: per diem, Extension contracted services, equipment maintenance, postage.
 - Pardee worked with UW-Extension to see if there are additional cost sharing options to offset the 100% county funded Horticulture Educator position.
 - Extension is willing to contribute up to \$6000 in travel costs in 2025. This proposal assumes that Iron County will continue to fully fund the Horticulture Educator position in 2025.
 - Modified 2025 budget request would be \$230,340, a \$27,502 (11.3%) decrease from the 2024 approved budget.

Educator Reports: Written reports were included in the meeting packet.

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

- Summer Assistant, Gavin Ransanici, was hired in late May and worked with Iron County 4-H program through August 4.
- Chopped! 4-H Day Camp

- 8 youth participants enjoyed the 4-day cooking program that included field trips to Super One Foods and Papa Dave's Pizza.
 - Community Development Educator, Joseph Miller and FoodWise Educator, Deborah Leonard were also involved in bringing this all-hands-on-deck program to participants.
- Fixer Upper Boat Edition Day Camp
 - 9 youth participated in this 4-day camp that took place at Saint Maude's in Pence, WI.
 - Participants learned about wooden boat anatomy, history, and restoration.
- SET Running Club
 - 14 youth participated in this 8-week program that included running at various locations in the community.
- Iron County Outpost Camp
 - 17 campers participated in the 4-day program that took place at Lake of the Falls Campground in Mercer, WI.
 - Campers participated in a challenge activity that included a full-day hiking trip from Copper Peak to Black River Harbor.
- Iron County Summer Youth Camp
 - 49 campers, 31 middle-high school aged camp staff members, and 12 adult volunteers attended the program.
 - Klemme was happy with the new upgrades at Trails End Youth Camp that include updates in the kitchen, a new pavilion and obstacle course, and electrical upgrades for campers.
- Fees and Fundraising
 - Klemme and Holm highlighted the financial support the 4-H program receives through registration fees, donations, grants, and fundraisers.
- Iron County Fair
 - Klemme stated that the fair went well and had successful fundraising efforts through the dairy booth, pie auction, silent auction, and Penokee Range Livestock Auction.
- AmeriCorps Vista
 - Iron County 4-H has been approved for a 12-month AmeriCorps position to help grow the opportunities for youth to engage in the program.
 - The 4-H Leaders approved to cover \$2500 of the \$3750 buy in. Klemme asked if he could use left over funds from the summer staff position to cover the remaining \$1250.
 - The committee recommended to add the request to the September meeting agenda to seek approval.

Community Development: Miller reported on the following:

- Chopped 4-H Day Camp – planning and logistical support.
- Entrepreneurship
 - Planning a Rural Entrepreneurship Bootcamp program that will be offered January-February 2025.
 - Attended Connecting Entrepreneurial Committee Conference in Platteville, WI in May.
- Digital Equity
 - Attended two Iron County Broadband committee meetings, June 12 and August 6.
 - Miller was elected Vice Chair of the committee.

- Provided letter of support for Digital Navigator grant, which will provide regular on-demand digital equity skills training and device lending library through the Hurley and Mercer Public Libraries.
- Tech Tips and Talk (3T) – 4-session pilot course was held at Hurley Public Library.
 - 12 attendees participated over 4 sessions.
- Mercer Comprehensive Plan
 - Miller worked a table at the Iron County Fair to spread word about the 2024 Mercer & Iron County Community Development Survey.
- Military and Veterans Ball – no firm updates, continuing marketing groundwork and making contacts with potential event partners.
- Join or Die Screening and “Joiner Fair” – Attended planning meetings and set up table at the event.
- Volunteered at the Iron County Mobile Food Pantry, Silver Street Planting, and Mercer Food Pantry Distribution.
- Completed Extension’s 6-month Cohort Onboarding Training.

Horticulture: Spangenberg reported on the following:

- Answered individual gardening questions.
 - Part of a team that also answers questions via Extension Horticulture’s statewide Ask a Gardener website.
- Northwood Yard & Garden column
 - Continues to submit the column to local and regional newspapers, on the Extension website, and social media pages.
- Bayfield in Bloom
 - Participated as a panelist in the 22nd annual Bayfield in Bloom event during a live broadcast of Larry Meiller’s Garden Talk in May.
- Appeared on Garden Talk statewide Wisconsin Public Radio call-in show in July.
- Silver Street Planting
 - Met with 4th grade students prior to help prepare them for the planting day.
 - Thanked his Extension colleagues for stepping in to help in his absence during the event, as he could not attend due to a family emergency.
- Montreal Planting
- Iron County Fair
 - Assisted fair-goers with their fields and crops entries and was available to answer questions.

FoodWise: Leonard and Bakker reported on the following:

- Wrapped up Hurley and Mercer Schools and Hurley Head Start nutrition education programming
- Hurley School Garden
 - The FoodWise team continues to facilitate programming with the Hurley School Kids Club summer school program, in partnership with the Iron County Health Department.
- Chopped! 4-H Day Camp
 - Assisted in teaching participants about food safety, healthy snacks, food label reading, and snack prep. She also was a judge during the food competition.
- Participated in the Across the Borders Senior Education Walk

- Leonard had over 80 community members stop by her FoodWise table, which had free samples and resources.
- FoodWise newsletter
 - Bakker thanked Holm for her assistance in designing the monthly newsletter.
- Strongbodies Virtual Strength Training will be starting a fall session in September.
- Assisted with the Silver Street Planting and Montreal Planting events.
- Partnering with the Iron County ADRC on their Walk With Ease program. Leonard is providing a nutrition education segment during the 14-week program.
- Shared that Ashland/Bayfield/Iron County FoodWise has hired a new educator. Lindsay Larson will be starting in early September and will work primarily in Ashland and Bayfield Counties but plans to partner with Leonard as she learns her new position.

Support Staff: Holm reported on the following:

- 4-H Support
 - Holm highlighted her time-intensive support of the Iron County 4-H program that includes coordination of enrollment, documentation, health information, promotion, marketing, finances, and supply orders of all summer programming. This also includes in person assistance at the overnight Iron County Summer Youth Camp program and some assistance at the Iron County Fair.
 - Holm thanked committee members Paul Mullard and Doug Swartz for their hard work on making the 2024 Iron County Fair a Success.
- Horticulture Support
 - Holm continues to assist Spangenberg in designing his Northwoods Yard & Garden column each week and sharing it to the county website and social media pages.
 - Assisted 2-clients with submission of soil samples.
 - Assisted at the Silver Street Planting event.
- FoodWise Support
 - Holm continues to assist Bakker and the FoodWise Team with designing the monthly FoodWise newsletter and sharing it to the county website, social media pages and distributing it at the Iron County Mobile Food Pantry.
 - Designed two recipe cards to be used for Leonard's nutrition education classes.
- Community Development Support
 - Created a flyer for Miller to help spread word and increase responses for the 2024 Mercer & Iron County Community Development Survey.
- Iron County Mobile Food Pantry
 - July distribution – volunteers served 191 families (285 individuals).
- Professional Development
 - Attended monthly Extension Support Staff Zoom meetings
- Other Iron County Support
 - Shared posts on the Iron County Courthouse Facebook page on behalf of the following offices. Child Support, Highway, Zoning, Land & Water.
 - Updated Iron County website, as requested.
 - Assisted courthouse staff and outside groups with using the AQUOS Smart Board in the Iron County courthouse boardroom.
 - Holm suggested that having a training for staff or outside groups could be helpful.

Schedule next Extension Education Committee meeting: The next Extension Education Committee meeting will be held in September. Date TBD.

Adjourn: Lutgen adjourned at 11:28 a.m.