

Richland County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2018 - 9:00 a.m.
Room 713, Extension Office, East Hall, UW-Richland

Present: Brewer, Couey, Nelson, Wunnicke, Craddock, Saxe, Lenzendorf, Coorough, Hady

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brewer at 9:00 a.m.
- II. Elections
 - a. Chair - motion by Nelson, 2nd by Couey to nominate Brewer as chair. No other nominations. Unanimous vote for Brewer as Chair.
 - b. Vice-Chair - motion by Brewer, 2nd by Couey to nominate Nelson as vice-chair. No other nominations. Unanimous vote for Nelson as Vice-Chair.
 - c. Secretary - motion by Brewer, 2nd by Nelson to nominate Couey as secretary. No other nominations. Unanimous vote for Couey as Secretary.
- III. Saxe gave proof of notification.
- IV. Motion by Couey, seconded by Nelson, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- V. Minutes approved as published.
- VI. Public input-none
- VII. Unfinished Business
 - a. nEXT Generation – Craig Saxe, Area Extension Director (AED) reviewed the nEXT Generation process that has been happening since state budget cut in 2015. Current issue is that after counties signed contracts to fill positions for 2018, State of WI revealed they are unable to fulfill the contracts due to a shortfall of funds. Vacant positions are being negotiated. The Richland County Interim 4-H Program Coordinator Position is considered vacant. In response to a request, Saxe then went through the presentation on Cooperative Extension structure (item XII on the agenda). The proposed transition to place Cooperative Extension under the administrative umbrella of UW-Madison is still scheduled for July 1 with the intention to be as few initial changes as possible. Necessary changes to complete the merge happen over the next 12 months.
 - b. Interim 4-H Program Coordinator Position—Brewer summarized history of 4HYD Agent position in Richland County (failed search for a full-time replacement. With nEXT Generation process starting, Craddock was hired as Interim in May 2016). Currently treated as a vacant position, Saxe explained that the State of WI intends to reduce their support for this position by half as part of their cost-saving measures. Couey asked if a half-time position would be possible to get the work done in Richland County. Craddock replied that it would be difficult. Craddock explained that enrollment in 4-H was down when position was vacant but has grown about 5% last year with 1 new club formed and another in progress. Assistant Dean, Matt Hanson acknowledged important work in Richland County with non-traditional youth and after school club. Hady provided context that 3 years ago, Richland County was staffed with 4.0 FTEs (plus FoodWise), and now are at 2.8 FTEs (plus FoodWise). This additional cut would bring staffing to 2.2 FTEs (plus FoodWise). Options for the county to consider are sharing a 4-H Coordinator with a neighboring county (Iowa County was discussed because they also have an interim). Richland County could also fill the gap in state funding with additional county funds to keep a full-time Richland County 4-H Coordinator. This would require Richland County to send additional funds, but could allow for the hiring process to begin sooner. All new hires are Academic Staff with a Bachelors' Degree required, Master's Degree preferred.
 - c. Report to full county board in May.—Saxe and all Agents/Educators will be at the County Board meeting on 5/15 to present slideshow on Cooperative Extension and introduce local programming.

VIII. New Business

- a. World Pork Expo: Motion by Couey, seconded by Nelson, to approve Hady's attendance at this conference June 6-8, 2018. Motion carried.
- IX. Out of County Requests - Motion by Nelson, seconded by Couey, to approve out of county requests. Motion carried.
- X. Approval of Repairs/Purchases over \$1,000. Motion by Couey, seconded by Nelson to approve spending up to \$1200 from the Pesticide Account for a new laptop for Hady. Motion carried.
- XI. Expenditures: Office, Agent, Soils, Program and Pesticide accounts – Motion by Nelson, seconded by Couey, to recommend payment of all accounts. Motion carried.
- XII. Overview of Extension structure (covered under item VII)
- XIII. Next meeting date is 2nd of the month Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 1 p.m. Committee will follow this pattern for subsequent meetings.
- XIV. Motion to adjourn by Nelson and seconded by Couey. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by: Chelsea Wunnicke.