

Richland County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee

Meeting Minutes

Jul. 7, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting held at Room 713 and via Zoom

Present: Steve Williamson, Marc Couey, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Van Nelson, Lee Van Landuyt, Sheena Cook-Fuglsang, Kristine Lockwood, Karleen Craddock, and Adam Hady, Interim AED. Via Zoom: Sandy Campbell, Jennie Silver, Chelsea Wunnicke, and Craig Saxe.

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Couey at 3:00 p.m.
- II. Hady gave proof of notification.
- III. Motion by Williamson, seconded by Murphy-Lopez, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- IV. Motion by Landuyt, seconded by Couey, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- V. Public input - None
- VI. Unfinished Business
Broadband Summary of Key Points presented by Saxe. Couey clarified county is asking to “figure out what’s real”. Committee to consider creation and worth of survey. Question of funding. Melissa had conversation with the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) who are willing to assist with survey costs as part of American Rescue Plan. All research and information is stored and accessible in Craig’s google drive.

Craig pointed to Background on Summary of Key Points and Collective Thoughts that were drawn from conversations with Jessica Spayde, Marc Couey and Jasen Glasbrenner. Couey discussed his motivation being population growth. In light of upward trend of people working from home, Couey explained that more out-of-towners would potentially move to and build in Richland County if broadband availability permits them to work from home. Van Landuyt suggested that county doesn’t need to necessarily build industries, rather can grow by bringing industry workers in. Van Landuyt gave an example of a neighbor who works for an industry where they perform all their work remotely.

Saxe suggested that timeline of coordination of survey dependent on grants for which most 2021 grant deadlines have likely passed and that ISPs typically apply for grants. Lee Van Landuyt inquired of lesser known grants and Saxe encouraged attention be directed toward American Rescue Plan. Murphy-Lopez inquired on Iowa County’s survey costs and resources, which included a dedicated Community Development Educator and some estimated administrative costs of \$3,000. Hady discussed that current Richland County Extension structure lacks a Community Natural Resources Economic Development Educator (CNRED) and that current staff and educators do not have the expertise and cannot be tasked with an economic development survey. Hady pointed to Crawford Co. outsourcing to River Falls Survey Center and spending approximately \$15,000 prior to Jessica Spayde in CDE position.

Couey also suggested allocating Recovery Funds services from a survey group like River Falls Survey and such funds could come from the County rather than a single Department. Murphy-Lopez asked if current support staff are able and willing to help with data entry, if that becomes necessary. Van Nelson discussed having Townships allocating/contributing some of their Rescue funds. Williamson suggested that outsourcing would also eliminate any risk of perception of bias in data entry. Hady offered to pursue researching and procuring cost estimates for survey service providers such as River Falls Survey Center and University.

Motion by Lee Van Landuyt, seconded by Murphy-Lopez, to have Hady pursue River Falls Survey costs and services. Motion carried.

- VII. New Business
2022 Budget: Worksheet to be completed by Adam Hady and due by July 31, 2021 - 0% increase in department budget. 7% increase wages, 7% increase healthcare. Couey discussed the need for County discussion of changes in light of shortfall. Shawn proposed Committee meeting to discuss department budget before

submission. Couey proposed meeting Budget Meeting on July 28, 2021, 3 p.m. Adam suggested he would be soliciting guidance and recommendations from the committee.

- VIII. Out of County Requests: None
- IX. Approval of Repairs/Purchases over \$1,000: No purchases over \$1,000 for current month.
- X. Expenditures: Office, Agent, Soils, Program and Pesticide Accounts
Motion by Van Nelson, seconded by Steve Williamson, to recommend payment of all expenditures. Motion carried.
- XI. AED Update
Hady started Monday as Interim AED through transition since Saxe's departure. Looking forward to moving toward "normal" and getting acquainted with educators and programming areas. Time frame to fill AED position approximately 1-2 months, and Adam would mentor for the new AED's first month.
- XII. Educator report by Sheena Cook-Fuglsang, Crawford, Richland, Vernon FoodWise Coordinator. Cook-Fuglsang reported on Richland County FoodWise priorities through Health Equity Lens. Cook-Fuglsang explained that CRV team is a regional team and educators serve where needs exist according to data. Cook-Fuglsang reported on state racial disparities, food insecurity, obesity, and poverty in Wisconsin from 2015-2019; as well as data suggesting racial minority groups in WI having higher percentages of poverty. Cook-Fuglsang compared Richland County data which showed higher rates than the state average in several areas. Cook-Fuglsang highlighted economic vulnerabilities especially among -17 year olds and that some 30% kids and some 14% adults in Richland County use federal assistance programs. Cook-Fuglsang also displayed maps that indicated number and locations of food retail locations that offer SNAP, and the absence of healthy food retail access for most of the county. In light of the data, FoodWise will focus on identifying and building strategic partnerships in areas where there is greater need, with a special focus on "equity" which Cook-Fuglsang explained is not about choosing either/or, rather pouring more resources and efforts where these health gaps exist. FoodWise targeted outreach continues for families with children, seniors, Hispanic and racial minorities, and low income populations. More effort will be directed toward southwest and northeast corners of the county, such as Viola and Lone Rock respectively, as well as multi-level programming strategies at farmers' markets and schools.
- Couey asked about solutions to close the aforementioned gaps. Cook-Fuglsang discussed FoodWise efforts toward multi-level programming combined with existing and expanded direct education. For example, encouraging the farmers markets to accept SNAP so that people have the option of purchasing local healthy foods with their SNAP dollars and offering healthy classroom celebration options at schools. Cook-Fuglsang shared insight that SNAP spending data reflects the general American diet, which dispels the notion that SNAP dollars are often poorly stewarded. FoodWise team meets has met with WIC, DATCP, DHS to build understanding and partnerships that support our local health efforts.
- XIII. Next meeting date is Special Budget meeting July 28, 2021 at 3:00 P.M. Next regular meeting is tentatively Wednesday, August 4 at 3:00 P.M.
- XIV. Motion to adjourn by Murphy-Lopez and seconded by Williamson. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by: Kristine Lockwood, FoodWise Nutrition Educator