

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation & Ag and Extension Committee

Date of Meeting: Monday, November 7th, 2022

Chair Mr. Dwight Ruff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Dwight Ruff, Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht, Mr. John Sendelbach, Mr. John Hadley, Farmer Representative Mr. Joe Bragger

Others Present for All or Portions of the Meeting: Mr. Cale Severson, Ms. Patricia Malone, Mr. Lee Engfer, Attorney Mr. John Behling, Mr. Steve and Mrs. Beth Segerstrom, Mr. Tim Barth, Mr. Chris Passauer, Ms. Roxane Weisenbeck, Ms. Tammy Christenson all in person, Mr. Joe Krumrie, Ms. Annie Lisowski, Ms. Mary Campbell-Wood, and Brommerich News-virtual.

Minutes: Mr. John Sendelbach made a motion seconded by Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion Carried.

Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items: None

Ag and Extension Portion

Review/Discussion ~ Roles & Responsibilities of Oversight Committee and AED (Area Extension Director).

Ms. Malone shared a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of both the committee and the AED. She highlighted the AED roles including budgeting, supervision of educators, hiring, and so on. The committee plays a key role in setting local educational priorities, budgeting, and sharing the Extension story.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ 4-H and Youth Development Education in Buffalo and Pepin Counties.

The committee discussed the proposal Malone presented. See attached report. The committee is invited to attend the Pepin County meeting as they discuss the proposal. We will continue the discussion next month. Mr. Schmidtknecht requested a table or chart showing where the money comes from and where it would go under the proposal. Mr. Ruff instructed Malone to be sure materials are sent to committee members well in advance of committee meetings.

Mr. Duley is expecting to provide information on formaldehyde in sawdust and its potential impact on milk, cow health, and other relevant issues.

Land Conservation Portion

Review/Discussion ~ BWS update

Severson started conversation by going over the events of a meeting that took place regarding future actions at the Buffalo White Sands mine with Mr. Barth and Mr. Passauer. Mr. Tim Barth explained the work he has done to make agreements happen. Beth Segerstrom expressed that there has been work done regarding agreements and also a land purchase. Attorney Mr. John Behling spoke they are willing to come to an agreement, but no agreement has been signed. He gave a sales agreement 6-months ago and it is still not signed. Mr. Tim Barth spoke again about the work that has been put into agreements with several entities. Mr. Dwight Ruff mentioned this was supposed to be wrapped up last meeting. He encouraged all parties to work together to get this done. Mr. Tim Barth's goal is to get a purchase completed and the plan amended and get a reclamation bond in place. He wants to have this done by next meeting in December and have the entire process done by the end of this year, December 31st, 2022.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ A Resolution to Approve the Buffalo County Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Years 2022-2031

Cale spoke on how hard the plan was to put together being that there has been such staff turnover. He is proud of the plan and how it turned out. He has worked for the last year putting it together and wanted to be sure it covered all bases. Mr. Severson showed the plan on overhead to board members, they also had a chance to review it before the meeting. If needed, this plan can be amended in 5-years. He will present the plan to the Land and Water board on December 6th. Mr. Bragger motioned to approve the plan and move it to the State land and Water Board, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Motion carried.

Review/Discussion ~ Review of LWRM Plan Revisions Questions/Answers

Mr. Severson spoke on the topic. These questions are to be answered by the County prior to the State Land and Water Board plan presentation. He answered the questions to the best of his ability and knowledge. Mr. Hadley and Mr. Bragger mentioned concerns about staffing and asked what we can do to keep employees at Buffalo County.

Conservationist's Report

Mr. Severson spoke about the work on the LW plan and incorporating all partner comments.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Ruff spoke on the hazelnut project and assisted in picking them up in Ashland and the planting of some of the bushes for the DATCP Innovation alternative cropping project through Land Conservation. Mr. Ruff spoke of the desire to see some action on the BWS topic at next meeting.

The Committee decided to go into closed session at this point to discuss staff performance. Mr. Schmidtknecht made the motion with Mr. Bragger second. Roll call vote- all yes

The committee reconvened in open session with a motion by Mr. Bragger and a second by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Roll call vote-all yes.

**Review/Discussion/Action Regarding the Next Meeting Date and Time:
December 5th, 2022**

Public Comments Not Related to Agenda Items: none

Adjournment: Mr. Joe Bragger made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m., Seconded by Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cale Severson
County Conservationist

Patricia Malone,
UW Extension Area Director

Proposal to transition from 1.5 FTE 4-H/Youth Development to 2.0 FTE (1 FTE 4-H, 1 FTE Community Youth Development).

November 7, 2022

Prepared by Pat Malone, AED, Area 9

Background.

With Marie Ritscher's retirement (she is the 0.5 FTE 4-H/Youth Development Educator in Pepin County) we have an opportunity to reconsider how to best provide 4-H and Community Youth Development education in Pepin and Buffalo Counties. I started the process by meeting with Matt Calvert, PYD Institute Director, Jennifer Swenson (regional program manager), Joe Maldonado, and Annie Lisowski. Our proposal is 2.0 FTE co-funded positions. One position is a 4-H Program Educator; the other is to maintain Annie's position but allow her to focus more on community youth development. Both positions would be serving Pepin and Buffalo Counties.

Current situation:

1. Pepin Position is 0.50 FTE. Covers 4-H and Youth Development. Buffalo County position is 1.0 FTE. Covers 4-H and Youth Development.
2. The total Pepin investment in 4-H/Youth is \$22,450. The Buffalo County investment includes the educator at 44,900 plus an additional \$15,000 to pay for a 4-H program assistant. This 15,000 covers 40% of a 100% position. The balance is paid with Dean's money (Department Chair buyout). We would need \$12,000 of this \$15,000.
3. Pepin County has two clubs and roughly 50 youth members. This is roughly 3% of the eligible population.
4. Buffalo County has 11 clubs and roughly 400 youth members. This is approximately 17% of the eligible population.
5. Both counties have leaders associations.

Future Possibilities:

1. Continued development of partnership and provision of services between Pepin and Buffalo Counties.
2. Focus on areas of specialization. In theory, better 4-H services and better community youth development opportunities across both counties.
3. Expanded community youth development in Pepin County – after school programming, mental health, AODA, coalition building, etc.
4. Increased effectiveness/efficiency in overseeing 4-H programming and responsibilities.
5. Potential expansion of Pepin County 4-H program.
6. Increased university funding. The proposal is the increase from 1.5 FTE co-funded positions in the two counties to 2.0 FTE co-funded positions in the two counties. This is roughly a \$14,000 increase in Extension money.

Financial Implications:

1. No additional money at this time. It does involve transferring dollars from their current line item. However, the intent for the use of the money doesn't change significantly.

2. Pepin County: Transfer 10,628 from program assistance line. This line was originally added to the budget to assist in youth development and family programming.
3. Buffalo County: Transfer \$12,000 from 4-H program assistant line. We would keep the PA position but use program revenue (after school programs) and Dean's funding.

Management Implications:

1. How do we recognize the change? Modify the 136 contracts? Develop an MOU between counties? Gentleperson's agreement with willingness to review after a set period of time?
2. Division of 4-H and Community Youth Development workloads between Gwen and Roxane.
3. Loss of program support assistance in Pepin County.
4. Evaluation of new position is done by AED. Annie is faculty and continues to be evaluated through the faculty annual review process.
5. How do we measure the success of our efforts if we proceed with this change?
6. Perception of equity about each county's investment.

Do we have other options?

1. Maintain current staffing.
2. Expectation is that county must choose between 4-H Program Educator and Community Youth Development Educator.
3. Perceived increased challenges in hiring half time position.
4. The Area 9 2018 prioritization process identified drug issues as #1, mental health as #2, and youth and family as #5. I believe our obligation is to support education, facilitation, and research that focuses on these issues.

Summary.

1. I have acquired support at the state level for this proposal.
2. It does include an increase in the Extension match.
3. I will not move forward without the approval of both counties. However, if we want to fill the position we need to decide sooner rather than later.