

Winona County Extension Committee  
Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Members present: Luke Miller, Sidney Greden, Teresa Grossell, Melinda Groth, Kay Qualley, and Commissioner Marcia Ward

Staff present: Lisa Dierks, Kim Stehr, Nathan Winter. Annette Shepardson

Meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm


Agenda and minutes were approved.

Lisa Dierks provided an overview of how the pandemic has impacted Extension programming and staffing model since late March. Staff are encouraged to work from home, but may file exemption to policy with University as needed to complete work at office or other programming site. Extension has established COVID resource website with many items to help the public with the multitude of changes. Website of resources was shared.

Annette Shepardson, SNAP Educator for Wabasha, Winona and Houston counties, provided an overview of her work the last few months and changes related to the pandemic. She has been working with managers of food shelves to help them with how to distribute food safely. She also provided an overview of the monthly food distributions by Channel One in communities as well as discussed the Pandemic EBT program for children. She has provided resources for volunteers and assisted with distribution methods that meet COVID guidelines.

Kim Stehr, Youth Development Educator, provided an overview of youth development activities over the past 5 months. The fair has been cancelled for 2020, but 4-H will offer a county showcase. Static judging will be virtual. Livestock judging is planned to be in person. The public is not able to attend in person events due to COVID precautions. Project kits have been a success for youth in the county as a way to keep them engaged in projects and let them learn about project areas that usually have limited participation. Cloverbuds received activity boxes if they signed up and received positive feedback. Kim is working with regional staff to share their ideas with a broader audience of youth. Kim assisted with filming a video segment about custom application as part of an agronomy careers series. 4H T shirts are available for sale.

Nathan Winter, Program leader for Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources, attended the meeting due to Jake Overgaard's departure. Nathan provided an update on AFNR work and reviewed the position which has been 0.5 FTE County funded, 0.4 FTE grant funded and 0.1 FTE Extension special projects. Nathan reviewed the attached agriculture handouts about Winona County. Limited discussion about the position



and what a future model could look like. Discussion about 0.5 FTE vs 0.75 FTE vs a 0.66 FTE shared position with 2 other counties.

For business items, Farm Family for 2020 was discussed. Due to cancellation of FarmFest, there will not be a live state wide event. There will be a virtual option. Family will be recognized at 2021 fair. The Extension Department budget for 2021 was discussed. The MOA contract had included a 2% increase, however the Dean of Extension has notified all counties that the University will not include this increase in 2021 billing. Request to provide a recommendation to county board to add a summer intern position for \$4200 was motion by Teresa and second by Sidney - APPROVED Kay discussed the Invasive Species grant for 2020-21. Three interns have been hired to remove IS and train property owners. Plan to partner with Houston County on the project.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Dierks