

Anoka County Extension Committee
Tuesday, March 26, 2019
3:00 p.m.
Bunker Hills Activities Center

AGENDA

Mission: Making a difference by connecting community needs and University resources to address critical issues in Minnesota

- 3:00 p.m. Convene meeting – *Juanita Reed-Boniface, Chair*
Additions/Approval of Agenda
Approval of the January 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- 3:10 p.m. Commissioner Updates - *Commissioners Look & Meisner*
- 3:20 p.m. Committee Member Discussion of Community Concerns
- 3:25 p.m. Program Report: Anoka County 4-H Youth Development
Jy Xiong, 4-H Program Coordinator
- 3:40 p.m. Program Update: Anoka County Master Gardeners
Lynne Hagen, Master Gardener Program Coordinator
- 3:45 p.m. Unfinished Business
2019 Farm Family of the Year
2019 CEC Priorities
Other
- 4:00 p.m. New Business
Ag Preserve Funding Recommendations & Discussion
Extension Fee Review
Other
- 4:15 p.m. Regional Update
Sarah Chur, Regional Director
- 4:25 p.m. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 18, 2019

2019
Committee Members

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**The University of Minnesota
Extension is an equal
opportunity educator and
employer.**

Attendance

Committee Members

--- Juanita Reed-Boniface
--- Commissioner Look
--- Commissioner Meisner
--- Eva Knudsen
--- Paulette Kostick
Others:

Regional Staff

--- Ron Boulton
--- Reid Mortenson
--- Ann M. Rantanen-Lee
--- Andy Soltvedt

County Staff

--- Julie Blomquist
--- Kim Ferguson
--- Anna Gilbertson
--- Lynne Hagen
--- Layne Vermeulen
--- Jy Xiong

Agenda subject to change before the meeting.

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Minutes

Members Present:

Ron Boulton, Eva Knudsen, Paulette Kostick, Commissioner Look, Ann Rantanen-Lee, Commissioner Meisner, Juanita Reed-Boniface, Andy Soltvedt,

Staff present: Julie Blomquist, Sarah Chur, Layne Vermeulen

Convene meeting – Juanita Reed-Boniface, Chair

Welcome & Introductions

Juanita called the meeting together and welcomed everyone.

Additions/Approval of Agenda

Sarah said that we could hold off on the paperless options until the March Meeting. Juanita asked to add the Focus Groups and 100 Year Anniversary and decision-making on where to go from here.

Motion made by Paulette, seconded by Ron to approve the agenda with the above changes. Motion carried.

Approval of the November 27, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Look, seconded by Ron to approve the November Meeting Minutes.

Juanita welcomed Commissioner Meisner to the Extension Committee. Commissioner Meisner said she has been doing the job for about two minutes and introduced herself. She has lived in Fridley for 19 years and has two children, a daughter in high school and a son in middle school. This is the first time that she has run for anything. She is a Community Service Leader. Commissioner Meisner said that she is excited to learn and help. She knows Kirstin Delp, 4-H Leader, and understands that 4-H and the Master Gardener Program are top programs. She welcomes any education anyone can provide. Introductions of the Committee were made, and Juanita thanked Commissioner Meisner.

Election of 2019 Officers

Subcommittees: Budget, Ag Preserves, Farm Family

Juanita entertained nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Look nominated Juanita.

Paulette made a motion to nominate Juanita as Chair and Ron as Vice Chair. Eva seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Juanita thanked Commissioner Look and asked about Subcommittees. She explained the three committees and asked for volunteers. Ron said he would work with the budget, and Ann said she would stay with the budget, also. Paulette said she would work with the Farm Family. Commissioner Look said that last year it was Commissioner Braastad but thought this year it would be him and Commissioner Sivarajah. Sarah said there are some changes coming with Ag Preserves. Mandy asked about the Farm Family and Juanita explained that a recommendation is made for a farm family in the county who is outstanding in their field—a successful enterprise, cooperates with Extension, and has been involved with our program. Paulette also said predominate features are a passion for education, community, research to improve farm techniques (i.e. organic, sustainable farming, environment, etc.). Commissioner Meisner volunteered to work with the Farm Family Subcommittee. Eva said she could not help, but still has some suggestions. Juanita said they would all keep their eyes and ears open for the Farm Family Subcommittee.

Commissioner Updates - Commissioners Look & Meisner

Commissioner Look said there has been discussion of the Chomonix Golf Course and that as a County Board they are always looking for ways to save money. He is not sure who drove the concept of closing Chomonix. Commissioner Look said that Chomonix is running several hundred thousand in the hole each year. The committee is thinking about looking at consultants for what might be more profitable. It is an asset to Lino Lakes and Anoka County. Paulette asked if it was sold, would it be redeveloped. Commissioner Look said no, it can't be sold, but it would get overgrown. He also reported that new boilers were being installed in the Activities Center. The Commissioners also learned that on Highway 10 there will be work done at Fair Oak and Thurston Roads. MNDOT found funding for Highway 10 and 47 and secured funding for the Rum River Bridge. The County Fair will be impacted. Commissioner Meisner said that with Chomonix there is word out in the community and that it is in discussion. They will know more at the next Parks Committee Meeting.

Committee Member Discussion of Community Concerns

Juanita asked for any community concerns. She reported that St. Francis School District has hired a new superintendent who will start in July. There is new signage on Highway 47 where the accident occurred with the two girls.

Program Report: Youth Teaching Youth, 4-H Youth Development, Layne Vermeulen, 4-H Program Coordinator

Layne reported that there was a summer intern this past summer who was an alumni of Washington County 4-H and worked for us 30 hours a week. In reflection, securing funding for a full-time schedule would be good. There were three site-based summer programs: Northgate Woods, Blaine; Woodland North, Coon Rapids; and Highland Park, Anoka. She said they were at the sites two hours a week for 7 to 8 weeks and the time was split between 4-H and nutrition education. The Nutrition Educator came and taught healthy living and she had the group sit family style with everyone at the table. The 4-H Program is 35-40 hours each week and they worked on art explorers. Each week she would pick an artist from a child's book and she would read the book and they would talk about it. Layne said the kids got to try different styles of art and bring home their art work. She said the kids from both sites were given the opportunity to go to Camp Salie and see what a regular 4-H program is all about. Their favorite part was the songs. Layne said that partnerships come from partnerships. Coon Rapids Education and Anoka-Hennepin County Education helped to cover the cost for the intern and supplies. Another partnership was with nutrition. They delivered the lunches. The third site, Highland Park, was a new site and is a partnership between the City of Anoka and Youth First who caters to older youth. She said in this program they catered to the younger youth. Nutrition Educators Ash and Megan, from the Andover Regional Office, came to teach. Ash brought plants and talked about nutrition and Megan had salmon polymers. Layne reported that Youth First connected her to the Anti-Crime Commission that chipped in some money. She doesn't see teaching at that site again due to not a very good turnout for the program. Layne said the project kits that she put together will be available to our 4-H leaders and to staff in other counties. Juanita said she is excited to see such an increase in kids at Northgate Woods. Layne said that Northgate is a unique townhome association and it's fun to see the increase. Layne also said a lot of younger kids will stay with the program. Layne reported that she started a YTY Program in Columbia Heights in coordination with U of M Extension Nutrition Education, Youth Development, and Columbia Heights Education who provided some funding. They are trying to figure out how to continue this program. This semester the program was supported with ENCORE funds, through a Minnesota Department of Education for after school program. Fall is a great time because the garden is still usable for education and food that we serve there. This was a shorter program with 15 teen teachers. The Ag Educator that she worked with had good suggestions and one was feeding the kids a beet salad. Layne reported they also did a campus visit with the kids and partnered with the University YMCA. Eleven of their students attended and had a lot of questions answered. Layne said she has been working with Youth Teaching Youth and the curriculum. The curriculum doesn't change a lot but trying to find new ways for them to teach is important. Layne reported that Coon Rapids High School will have more teen teachers this year and there is a new School Coordinator who is great to work with. Ann said at the last meeting Layne said she'd be working with new people and she is glad that it worked out. Layne reported that she and her colleagues are working with CFANS to get a grant from them for a conference for the YTY Teens. It will be offered February 18. Layne also reported that she will be on leave this spring, her baby is due March 1. Someone will be hired as back-up while she is out. She said there will also be some free time for that person, so they will be able to work on other things. Layne is also working on a proposal for Coon Rapids Park and Rec who rented a building on Northdale Boulevard. They are looking at putting programs in that space.

and she is proposing a leadership program with communication, leadership, and teamwork. Layne plans to get it started and the new person will take over. Layne said the summer site-based programs will begin when she returns. Juanita said she had a good summer and asked the members if there were any questions. Ann said that one of Layne's issues was funding and asked her what was on her funding wish list. Layne said that transportation to transport the teen teachers at a lower cost and is reliable and safe. She said this is also an issue in other counties, they are all struggling with transportation. Juanita thanked Layne for her report.

Juanita said that when you are on Facebook you learn a lot. She learned from Laura Newberger that Anoka County is doing a program with a focus group, Growing 4-H Opportunities. Anna gave her a process that when you hear from different groups about 4-H can meet the needs and how to learn from what 4-H is doing. Part of the process is to bring groups together to ask questions, a process that is faculty-based. The purpose of the program is to define the direction a county could take to increase volunteers, secondly to strengthen the volunteer system, and thirdly to identify mutual partners in youth development in the community. Learning from youth, parents, and volunteers is an important part of this process. Juanita said it sounds like a wonderful program and VIVA is the acronym.

Unfinished Business

2019 Extension Budget

2019-2021 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Sarah said she would talk about both items. She passed out the MOA. She was at the County Board meeting this morning and they passed it. Sarah pointed out the overall price in Table 1 and that there will be some Ag Preserves funds going towards the positions. She said the intention was always that 15% of Lynne's position be covered by Ag Preserves and that is now noted in the MOA; 60% of Lynn's position comes from the levy. Sarah said they also put 10% of Jy's position on Ag Preserves, with 25% coming from the levy. She met with the Finance Committee on December 11 to talk through the MOA and they also had a work session with the Board. The question was around covering the full cost of the MOA. Sarah reported that Cory Kampf, Patti Hetrick, Yvonne Kirkeide, and Laurie Elvig bent over backwards to make sense of our budget and it has been streamlined and simplified. Within the MOA there are operations cost, support staff, and position costs for program staff. The Master Gardener Program accounts have been moved to University accounts. Sarah reported the county has streamlined the use of PCards. She said they also clarified Ag Preserves and how to move forward with those. Historically when they looked at Ag Preserves, which comes from real estate transactions, about 2/3 of those funds go to Extension and 1/3 goes to Soil and Water. Sarah said it sounds like Soil and Water can be directly allocated towards their projects instead of writing grants. That will save them time and the smaller group that evaluates the grants. The remaining 2/3 in the second chart, that \$18,445 will come off the top and be designated towards Lynne's and Jy's positions and whatever is remaining they can still write grants for. Layne could write a grant for dollars towards summer interns, or Anna could write a proposal for someone to teach at camp. They would still follow the guidelines, but it ends up being a better process. The budget is much cleaner now and we know what our sources of funding are. Sarah reported that the Board also agreed to adjust the budget by \$29,237 in order to fully cover costs. She wants to thank the Board Members. Sarah said this will be good for us, Soil and Water, and County Finance. She said she will be meeting quarterly with the Finance group to see that everything is working. Ron said she did a good job. Ann said that where we started with was with a very fractured budget and what we have now is simplification. Taking the Ag Preserves portion out of the granting process is also more clarification and the other concern with the entire agreement not being fully funded. Sarah reported there were some practices that weren't good. We had to bill back for some of the PCard purchases and now it will be more direct. Ron said it sounds much better and cleaner. Does this increase of \$29,000 plus the ag Preserves gets us to that \$50,000? Sarah said it's close. We will use Ag Preserves, but still have funding for new programming. Ann asked about Jy's position and her funding. Sarah said we are still at 35% total funding from the County, with grants and other sources covering the rest. As of today, she is full-time. She got an additional funding of 55% for Cooking Matters through Youth Teaching Youth. She said not losing FTE's and finding funding to do what we are currently doing is good. Sarah said we will still need to do a good job of telling what we are doing. It is easier to tell the story when we don't have our hands outreached. Ann said that the Budget Subcommittee talked about the various staff and retaining good people.

100 year

Juanita said there are still some things to finish up and feels that there needs to have a decision made about closure. Ann said the funding was finished and several things with the displays did not get done. She said she is at a point to turn it over to the Extension staff. She is unable to work with it at this point. Paulette agreed with Ann. The materials are there, and it should be out there in the libraries, etc. Juanita suggested taking all the notes she and Ann had taken and send them to the Historical Society to see if they want to do more research. She said she would be willing to get things to them. She asked if the committee if it was a consensus that we dismiss the Anniversary Committee and she will identify a few things to follow up on. Juanita thanked everyone who had pieces of action with this. Andy was a lifesaver with his creativity.

New Business

2019 Farm Family of the Year Program

Juanita said the committee could check this item off. Paulette volunteered to work with the program again this year and Eva said she has some information on local farms.

Other

Strengthening Rural/Urban Connections

Sarah asked if Extension offered a program related to rural/urban connection, what would it be relevant in our area and what format and/or structure, would be best for this audience. She asked if this is something that interests the members and something Extension should get involved in? Commissioner Meisner said it's important but isn't sure of what the role is. Ann said two things came to mind—more rural areas are losing to suburban. She gave examples of roads to get to urban jobs and population to support funding. Eva sees more urban going out to the rural and that causes problems. Ron state that a lot has to do with employment opportunities. Sarah said they are trying to think about an issues-based approach and how to connect people. Commissioner Look said he would say, you can't. You can't compare the urban paradigm to that of a rural paradigm. People in the rural areas want road expansions and everyone in the urban area wants transit. He stated that it has to do with the standard of living and do you want to live in a complex or have acreage? Farmers aren't going to eat the cost so that someone can have acreage. Commissioner Look said he doesn't think you can mix the two. Commissioner Meisner felt that you have to mix the two. Ann said you have communities that transition from one to the other, but also have the "that's not my problem" mentality. Sarah thanked the committee for their input.

Regional Update, Sarah Chur, Regional Director

Sarah shared with the committee what the University of Minnesota budget request looks like. She also pointed out a handout from Lynne and the brochure for the Home Landscaping and Garden Fair on Saturday April 6 that is being held here. Sarah said that Extension has a new president; effective July 1, Joan Gable will be the new president. Juanita thanks Sarah for her update.

Ron made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Look seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Blomquist

Administrative Support