

Winona County Extension Committee

Winona County Office Building, Thursday, March 12, 2020

Staff and Members present: Lisa Dierks, Jake Overgaard, Kim Stehr, Sandra Suchla, Susan Nielsen, Luke Miller, Kay Qualley, Melinda Groth and Marcia Ward

1. Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by L. Miller, Groth, Ward
2. Introductions were made around the table
3. A motion was made by M. Ward and seconded by M. Groth to make the addition of selecting a chair/vice chair to the beginning of the agenda. Motion carried unanimously
4. Motion made by M. Ward and seconded by S. Nielsen to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Nomination for chair - M. Ward moved for unanimous ballot for L. Miller, S. Nielsen second. All voted Aye
6. L. Dierks advised that T. Grossell had agreed per e-mail that she would serve as vice chair. Motion made by M. Ward, seconded by L. Miller. Ward again moved for a unanimous ballot, seconded by L. Miller. Approved.
7. December 2019 meeting minutes approved by M. Ward, seconded by S. Nielsen. Approved.

K. Stehr gave program updates.

She is trying to incorporate 4-H into all Winona County youth, not necessarily rural. Sixty percent say they feel connected with a caring adult, and that is one of 4-H's goals. In Winona County, 4-H serves 360 youth and there are 160 adult volunteers working with 4-H youth.

4-H has leadership events, staying true to their message of Head, Hearts, Hands, Health. 4-H is relevant to all youth. A goal is to make the non-traditional 4-H attendees familiar with what 4-H does.

The City of Winona currently has one club. Kim is trying to find a group that would sponsor the club so the support wouldn't be solely from 4-H.

4-H can tailor programs to meet needs of community. Social skills, improving work and study habits are all areas that can be addressed by a 4-H club.

Suggestions made by the committee included having Project Fine via the Welcoming Table, Master Gardeners or Habitat for Humanity assist with sponsorship of a City of Winona based 4-H club.

J. Overgaard program updates.

Pesticide training, as well as working with the educator in Fillmore County to run different trainings. A lot of training on produce, food and fresh product training. A local foods college was webinar based. Jake receives invites about four times a year regarding fertilizer application. A speaker was at a local seed dealer workshop. Then

there are the plot review meetings where all plots are reviewed, as well as getting input and suggestions.

Gardener's day was held March 6th & 7th at Winona State University. Lawns to legumes, \$300 cost sharing grant, pollinators and native plants, soils and herb production were also programs attended.

L. Dierks gave a Regional update. The University of Minnesota will have virtual learning and all U of M Extension meetings and programs will be cancelled until March 30th. There was a newsletter sent out in March and February was a trial .pdf. The goal is to communicate events in the region in a timely manner. Events is the focus as well as research tools and resources. There is a tourism assessment program being done by the City of Waseca.

County based items use county based communication, but a wider audience will be reached by the regional newsletter.

New business - membership - still need one member to fill a vacancy.

2020 Farm Family of the Year selection.

Qualifications and guidelines include they must be a good representative of agriculture as well as be involved in the community. Other criteria may include doing something innovative, or having a hand in extension.

Family farm will be picked via e-mail. The three to vote for will be:

Dan & Linda Duncanson

Dean & Kristi Reys

Sobeck Brothers - Gary & Jim

Input from the committee will be gathered via e-mail.

The farm family nominations were closed and motion made by M. Ward, second by M. Groth. Motion carried.

2021 budget requests. There are different models that must be addressed regarding staffing during the summer months. Summer help is unbudgeted for 2020 but there is hope that something can be added to the 2021 budget.

K. Qualley advised when budgeting for Extension, she is to follow the Memorandum of Understanding, which means only the mandatory staffing.

Kay brought up the subject of removing the Master Gardner's group from under the county umbrella. Kay also suggested that we do a board presentation regarding why



additional funding is needed for administrative support during fair time to assist with the fair and 4-H.

The next meeting is July 9 at 11 a.m. at the Winona County Fair in the food tent. Suggested that Luke send out invitations to the Winona County Board regarding meeting at the fair location.

Motion to adjourn was made by M. Ward and seconded by M. Groth. All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by S. Suchla