

**Bayfield County  
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee Meeting  
September 11, 2024 – 4:00 PM**

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

Steve Sandstrom, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03

Committee members present in person: Steve Sandstrom, Madelaine Rekemeyer, Larry Fickbohm (arrived at 4:30 pm).

Committee members online: Fred Strand,

Others present: Mary Pardee, Heidi Ungrodt, Ian Meeker, Kelly Westlund, Kellie Pederson (left at 4:35 pm), Catie Geib, Jason Fischbach and Theresa LaChappelle.

Others present online: Tracy Henegar

**2. Approval of Minutes of July 10, 2024 Meeting (action item)**

***Motion (Rekemeyer, Strand) to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023 meeting. Motion Carried.***

**3. Public Comment**

No public comments.

**4. Introduction of Catie Geib, Lake Superior Collaborative Coordinator**

Mary Pardee introduced Catie Geib, Lake Superior Collaborative Coordinator. Geib's office is located at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. She explained that the Lake Superior Collaborative (LSC) is a network of organizations working in partnership to coordinate protection, restoration, and Climate resilience efforts in the Wisconsin portion of the Lake Superior watershed. Some of the CLS partners include the UW Madison Extension, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, WI DNR, Ashland County Land & Water Conservation Dept., Bad River Band, Douglas County, the City of Ashland, Northland College. LSC will be holding a two-day Symposium on Oct 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center.

**5. 2024 UW-Extension Budget Update Report**

2024 Budget was discussed.

**6. Budget Amendment for Rural Housing Summit Series UW-Madison Extension Innovation Grant**

***Consensus to move forward a budget amendment to the County Board to accept the grant.***

**7. 2025 UW-Extension Budget Report (action item)**

***Motion (Rekemeyer, Sandstrom) to move the 2025 Extension budget forward to the Executive Committee. Motion Carried.***

## 8. Area Extension Director Update

### a. State and Area Updates

- i. **Iron County** – Due to budget constraints for 2025 Iron County has cut their 50% Hort Educator position. The Extension department was not the only department affected by cuts in Iron County.
- ii. **All Colleague Conference** – The All-Colleague Conference will be held November 19–21, 2024 in Madison. All staff member's expenses will be covered by UW-Madison Extension.
- iii. **AI Education and Implementation** – Pardee noted that Dean Karl Martin will be providing information in the future on his AI education and implementation focus for UW-Madison Extension.
- iv. **Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center** – Mary Pardee will be the future UW-Madison Extension representative on the NGLVC Board of Directors. There are currently two Extension offices (LSC & Master Naturalist) housed at the NGLVC. NGLVC would like to see UW-Madison Extension county offices implement additional programming and staffing at the Center.
- v. **KidWind Challenger Educator Workshops** – The Wisconsin Energy Institute and Wisconsin's K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP) will bring the KidWind Educator Workshop to the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center; as well as around the state in two additional places.
- vi. **B-Biz in Washburn** – The Building Business Network collaborators in Washburn will present their findings around their current work in high-performance technology, energy projects and federal and regional opportunities around energy efficiency. This event will be held on Friday, September 13, 2024 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center from 10 am to 4 pm.

### b. Staffing

- i. New FoodWise Educator – Lindsay Larson, former AmeriCorps Farm to School educator at Bayfield School district, has recently started in the position as the newest FoodWise Educator for Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

## 9. Out-of-State Travel Request (action item)

Kelly Westlund would like to attend the NCRCD Multi-State Housing Conference in Monticello, Illinois. There will be zero county dollars required for this event.

***Motion (Rekemeyer, Strand) to approve Kelly Westlund's Out-of-State travel request***

## 10. Staff Reports

### a. Community Development – Kellie Pederson

**Non-Profit Support** – Apostle Island Community Fund and the Head of the Lakes United Way have been working together with Pederson on hosting 6–7 events which focus on supporting our local non-profit boards in various ways.

**Caregiving Cooperative** – Pederson has continued to work with a local group on developing a caregiving cooperative. A business plan has been completed, and they are making strides with funding and finding caregivers.

**b. Housing - Kelly Westlund**

**CheqBuilt-** The Bottom-Line Newspaper will soon have a lengthy article regarding Community Land Trusts and CheqBuilt. CheqBuilt has been awarded a WHEDA grant for staffing. The CheqBuilt Director position is now open.

**Aurora Place-** The City of Washburn Planning Commission and the Bayfield County Board have both approved Cinnaire's proposal for the 40-unit Aurora Place Rental Development. The RFPs are expected out in February, with construction to start in the spring.

**Aurora Place Neighbors Development** – Proposals for a developer of market rate residential spaces to be built on a 3.89-acre space neighboring the proposed Aurora Place are open and due no later than October 4, 2024.

**Iron River** – There is a piece of county owned land in Iron River that is being considered for market rate housing to be developed on. Claire Sunsten, Housing Assistant, has plans to attend the next Iron River Town Board meeting and present various programs and options that are open to assist Bayfield County homeowners with home repairs and remodeling. She also has reserved a day to meet one-on-one with those residents who wish to meet in a more private setting.

**Cornucopia Senior Housing** – Surveys went out to roughly 230 Cornucopia area residents. Approximately 80 surveys have been returned to date. Another logistical meeting to be held on September 12<sup>th</sup> and a design charrette is to be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. After data has been collected, collated and further discussions have happened, an RFP will be crafted.

**Port Wing-** Residents in Port Wing have reached out and are showing an interest in housing for their area.

**White House Rural Housing Round Table** – Westlund was invited to and attended the White House Round Table on Rural Housing.

**USDA Town Hall Meeting** – Attended USDA Town Hall meeting in Milwaukee held by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack was attended by Westlund.

**Rural Housing Summit-** The local Rural Housing Summit will be held on November 7, 2024 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center.

**C. 4-H & Youth Development - Ian Meeker**

**Bayfield School Ricing** – MS & HS students from Bayfield were again involved with wild ricing. The wild rice crop was not as good as expected this year due to early spring rains. The group decided to canoe the Brule River today instead. Some of the Bayfield Alt Ed students will do a follow up canoe day at Long Lake to familiarize themselves a bit more with canoeing.

**Bayfield County Fair** – The number of exhibits was down a little bit in both the Junior and Open Classes. The 4-H Market Sale went well. Overall, a good experience.

**Superior Adventures** – Two canoe trips on the Brule River were scheduled for Superior Adventures. Two of the former Superior Adventures Coordinators were hired for a day for one of the Brule River trips.

A fishing day at Long Lake was also held as part of Superior Adventures.

**Ashwabab Biking Club** – There was good turnout for the summer session of the club. Most of the members have joined the Chequamegon Bay Composite Cycling Team, the Dirt Serpents. The Dirt Serpents are the Bay-Area's youth mountain bike group of 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders who participate in the WI Interscholastic Cycling Association chapter of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association.

**4-H** – The current 4-H year is coming to an end with a new year starting. The 4-H Leader's Association will be electing a new President and Secretary this year for two-year terms.

**4-H Awards Banquet** – The 4-H Awards Banquet will be held in Iron River on November 10, 2024.

**c. Human Development & Relationships - Heidi Ungrodt**

**Literacy Link** – The Roots and Wings Foundation has donated \$360,000 to UW-Madison Extension to be used by the 14 counties involved in Literacy Link.

**Parenting Inside Out** – Ungrodt held an in-person pilot class of Parenting Inside Out this summer at the Bayfield County Jail. She will be holding a five-week, 10-session virtual class with inmates from the Bayfield, Ashland and Sawyer County Jails. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time this pilot program will be held virtually. Registration priority will be given to those who will be incarcerated for the five-week period. Since this class is being held virtually, the option will be available for those to complete the class even when they are out of the jail.

**Aging Mastery Program** –The participants of the Aging Mastery Program wanted to keep meeting together. After sending out surveys to these participants, Ungrodt and Henegar are hosting "The Art of Aging" – Aging Mastery Booster Programs on the first Friday of the month at the NGLVC. The September meeting dealt with allocating belongings. October's meeting will have a representative from the DATCP speak on Seniors and Scams. November's speaker will be from the Northern ADRC and will discuss Memory Issues. An eight-session Aging Mastery Program will be held at the NGLVC again this winter.

**Children's Savings Accounts (CSA)** – The Midwest CSA Consortium met in St. Paul, which Ungrodt attended. She made many good connections and networked with a variety of people handling CSA's. The Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation (DSACF) is still interested in running the program. Ungrodt has a meeting set for tomorrow with them for additional discussions. DSACF is also looking at ways to support students throughout their secondary education.

**d. Human Development & Relationships - Tracy Henegar**

**Trauma informed Caregiving** –Henegar is mentoring other Extension educators in the Trauma Informed Caregiving program. As additional educators are trained, this will allow the program to be offered statewide and to cut down on the long waiting lists.

**Triple P** – Triple P Teen, Triple P Family Transitions, and Triple P FearLess are all scheduled for this fall. Triple P Fearless will launch the pilot this fall, it will be open to four counties.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wellness Leadership Summit** – Regional summit for middle school student leaders is designed to foster conversations surrounding wellness, empowering the region's youth to take on leadership roles within their communities.

**September is Suicide Awareness Month** – The QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide prevention program raises awareness of signs & symptoms of suicide and skills to connect with someone showing these signs. This program is suitable for the general public. Henegar can lead QPR trainings either virtually or in person. Please let her know if you would like her to provide a class.

**Mental Health 1<sup>st</sup> Aid** – Henegar will once again be hosting a variety of Mental Health 1<sup>st</sup> Aid classes.

**e. Emerging Crops - Jason Fischbach**

**Seedless Table Grapes (STG)** – STG trials have been in the process of growing for three-years. The top variety contenders are Reliance, and three-new-yet unnamed-University of Minnesota varieties.

**Hazelnuts** – Hazelnuts are a hard to propagate crop, Hauser's Superior View Farm is involved in the propagation of the newest varieties. In the near future, they will be working on tissue cultures to make propagation easier. Plants are currently available on a limited basis through the Midwesthazels.com website.

**Go First Farm** –The first crop of hazelnuts will be available next year at the Bayfield County Go First Farm. Since Bayfield County owns the nuts, the County will need to decide what to do with the property and/or the nuts. Something to discuss before next harvest season. Dry weather last year and the spongy moth caterpillars were somewhat detrimental to some of the hazelnut plantings.

**Climate Change Mitigation** – Hazelnuts sequester more carbon compared to annual crops. Hybrid Poplar can sequester 2 tons per acre at about \$250/year over 10 years. A possibility to think about is if the Go First Farm could become a carbon sequestering cooperative? It was suggested that Fischbach speak with Bill Bussey who is involved in the Citizens Climate Lobby for a deeper conversation on what has been happening at the local level.

**f. Office Manager - Theresa LaChappelle**

The current issue of the Living Well in Our Best Years newsletter was just recently completed and mailed out.

11. **Next Meeting Date** – Tentatively scheduled for November 13, 2024 at 4 pm in the EOC.

12. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.