



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PORTAGE COUNTY ANNEX
CONFERENCE ROOMS 1 & 2
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

Thursday, October 12, 2023

7:00 PM

REMOTE ATTENDANCE & COMMENT

To attend this meeting by telephone : dial +1 312 626 6799, after dialing the number you will then be asked to enter in a meeting number. Use the following meeting number: 943 8291 0922.

To attend this meeting by video: [Click Here](#)
If prompted enter passcode: Portage.

CALL TO ORDER

The Agriculture and Extension Education Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Members Present: Matt Jacowski, David Peterson, Pat Keller, Steve Cieslewicz

Attending In-Person: Matt Jacowski, David Peterson, Pat Keller

Attending Online: Steve Cieslewicz

Members Excused: Barry Jacowski

Members Absent:

Staff Attending: Jeremy Solin, Ken Schroeder

Others Attending: Guolong Liang, Amber Raddatz

PUBLIC NOTICE

Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Review/approval of minutes from September 13, 2023.

A motion was made by Supervisor Peterson, seconded by Supervisor Keller, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

2. Review/approval of minutes from September 14, 2023.

A motion was made by Supervisor Peterson, seconded by Supervisor Keller, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

REPORTS

3. Review Vendor Invoice List

The vendor invoice list and budget report were reviewed by the Committee.

4. Extension Agriculture Water Quality Program Update

Guolong Liang, Agriculture Water Quality Specialist, and Amber Raddatz, Ag & Water Quality Program Manager, presented to the Committee the work the Agriculture Water Quality Program has been doing in the Central Sands area since its inception in 2022. This has included research projects on the effects of nitrogen in groundwater, hosting and attending field days with local watershed groups, writing and distributing articles regarding agriculture and water quality, as well as a nitrate leaching pilot workshop. Upcoming programs include the Wisconsin Water & Soil Health Conference being held in December 2023, as well as continuing to listen and reach out to area stakeholders and local producers to connect them with Extension resources.

5. Area Extension Director Report

Area Extension Director, Jeremy Solin, reported that Connie Creighton, 4-H youth development educator, is still out on medical leave until early November and invited the Committee to the 4-H Leader's Appreciation Banquet being held on November 11th. Katie Livernash, the new Community Development Educator, continues to settle in, making connections in the community and is starting to work on broadband projects. Solin also reported that Penny Schmitt, FoodWise educator, has been recognized for the Career Golden Award, which is one of five awards given to FoodWise staff throughout the state.

6. Educator Report

Educators submitted a written report that was included in the committee meeting packet.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

7. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Special Meeting Attendance (Portage County Ordinance 3.1.47 & 3.1.48)

- Request for special meeting attendance: None
- Approval of attendance of special meetings: None
- Special meeting attendance reports: None

8. Discussion/Possible Action: Authorization for contract between Portage County and the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System for the term of January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024.

Solin reported the 2024 Extension contract remains the same as previous years, except for an 3% increase in educator positions as well as the inclusion of the Delegation of Financial Budget Authority Form. A motion was made by Supervisor Keller, seconded by Supervisor Peterson, to authorize the contract between Portage County and the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System for the term of January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024. Motion carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

CORRESPONDENCE

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REMINDER

NEXT MEETING DATE

9. November 9, 2023 - Committee to discuss possible change in meeting time.

Committee decided to meet at 6:00pm for upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Peterson, seconded by Supervisor Keller, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm