

LINN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2019  
@ LINN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

Chairperson Al Beach called the meeting to order at 5:00 p m. Council members present were Dan Abel, Alan Beach, Leland Freie, Pat Harstad, Dennis Jordan, David McDonald, Claire Smith, Patty Webster. Guests were Jim Harken, RaeAnn Gordon, Johanna Rahbusch, Jennifer Dunn, James Jordan, Kylie Mysak.

In calling for Public Comment, Al shared the following information taken from the Open Meetings Session at the recent State Council Association meeting that to remain in compliance: (1) subcommittees do not need motions brought to the floor when informing Council of budgeted items, (2) sub-committees contemplating proposals for Council should inform the public of the proposal by posting information 24 hours in advance of the meeting, (3) Council may accept public comments but not engage in an exchange with the presentors at the meeting. Public comments from Jennifer Dunn and James Jordan elaborated their concerns regarding the 4-H Clubs' treasury accounts being moved to the Extension office.

RaeAnn reviewed the Council Packet.

At 5:15, Al called for a motion to recess the regular Council meeting to conduct the scheduled Public Budget Hearing. Pat so moved with Mike seconding the motion that passed unanimously. Al stated, "This is the time and place set for the public hearing on the Linn County Extension Budget. The notice of the public hearing did appear in *The Gazette* not more than 20 days before the hearing as required by law on March 27, 2019. Are there any objections or comments concerning the budget?" Hearing none, Al called for a motion to close the public hearing. Claire so moved with Mike seconding the motion that passed unanimously.

Al reopened the regular meeting with a request for a motion to approve amending the budget. Mike moved that the FY19 Extension Education Operating Budget expenditures be increased from \$904,982 to \$1,050,263. Pat seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Al asked for approval of the March 2019 minutes. Mike moved and Patty seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim presented his REED report. More information will be forthcoming on the Structure for Success program. ISU is committed to improving its service delivery and reporting system. An informational meeting is planned for an Ag. Team Advisory Council and area meetings will be scheduled.

RaeAnn reviewed her Director's information including a video showing the media coverage of the Cedar Rapids Public School's luncheon menu created by the Farm to School program, the Master Gardener article in *The Gazette* on "Share a Row" and continuation and expansion of the "Thank a Farmer" program. Dennis interceded here expressing Extension's need to insist on recognition of Extension in its programs. Al commented that Strategic Planning should within this year develop a Communications agenda. RaeAnn continued that the Non Profit Management Academy will be ready to publicize soon. Council members were asked for help in notifying organizational leaders of its availability. 4-H account training is ongoing with a Finance committee review scheduled for tomorrow.

Committee reports commenced with the Finance Committee and Mike's extensive explanation of the Treasurer's report. Mike moved with Pat seconding a motion to approve the balance sheet, revenue and expenses, bank reconciliation and voucher report and check #24116-24461. The motion carried unanimously.

As per Chair Patty, the Personnel Committee had nothing to report this month. Al mentioned this Committee will review and report to Council next month on the matter of retaining Lori Meierotto as a part time bookkeeper for Linn County.

David gave the Strategic Planning report. The committee meets twice monthly with discussions regarding marketing and long term plans as well as the use of additional local resources and/or involving state specialists. He restated the need for volunteer training and retention.

Dan had no new information from the Facilities Committee.

Al requested a motion to approve the 4-H volunteers as presented. Claire so moved and David seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Al asked for additional information/announcements. Jim noted that the public comments regarding the 4-H accounts should be discussed by a sub-committee, namely the Finance Committee, who should then report back to the entire Council next month.

Dennis moved the meeting adjourn. Patty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Smith, Secretary