

Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council

MINUTES

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Wisconsin Technical College System Office
4622 University Avenue, Entrance E; McCarthy Board Room
Madison, WI

And via Zoom

Meeting Minutes Approved – November 30, 2022

Council Members present:

x	Kevin Bernhardt		Tom Gillis*		Sen. Howard Marklein		Jill Runde*
	Gary Besaw*	x	Bob Hagenow	x	Karl J. Martin	x	Sara Schoenborn
x	Gwen Boettcher	x	Erik Huschitt		Shelly Mayer	x	Daniel Smith
x	Greg Cisewski		Pete Kondrup*		Rep. Loren Oldenburg		Nick Stadnyk
	Sen. Alberta Darling*		Corey Kuchta*	x	Paul Palmby	x	Rep. Gary Tauchen
x	Jeff Edgar	x	Larry Lee		Sec. Amy Pechacek*	x	Sharon Wendt
	Jeff Eide*	x	Miranda Leis	x	Sam Ridders		Jason Wood
x	Monica Gahan	x	Betsy Leonard	x	Sec. Randy Romanski		
	Dale Gallenberg	x	Scott Loomans	x	John Rosenow		

*Excused

In-person

Virtual

Staff present: Jenifer Cole, DWD; Sally Ladsten, DPI; Ashley Andre, DATCP; Leah Peterson, Rep. Oldenburg's Office

Public present: None

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Schoenborn called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Attendance for hybrid (in-person/virtual) meeting noted above.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes

May 24, 2022 – P. Palmby moved to approve, B. Leonard seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

4. Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council Panel

- a. DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski introduced the Agriculture Youth Council members who provided a panel presentation on their perspectives about agricultural education.
- b. Kendra Goplin, a student at the University of South Dakota, shared that her agricultural education began in 7th grade with FFA. Like the average American, K. Goplin identified that she too was approximately three generations removed from ag production. She shared insights from her experiences as an education major working on agricultural education curriculum for elementary education. Identified that there is curriculum for elementary educators, but most teachers are not experienced or comfortable with teaching ag—they need support.

- c. Mary Schrieber, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, shared that she is studying life sciences in college and attended a high school with strong agricultural education and FFA programs. M. Schrieber shared her perspectives about the Ag Youth Council. She identified a need for ag professionals to help with education, perhaps by providing virtual learning opportunities in schools to introduce students to the variety of ag-related careers available. Looks to DPI to broaden K-12 ag education requirements.
- d. Hannah Dahl, a student at the University of Notre Dame, noted that in comparison with other states, Wisconsin high schools provide strong STEAM educations. She looks to the WAEWDC to help retain students after high school—keep talent in state. She noted that many Ag Youth Council members and their peers attend post-secondary education in other states and build their careers elsewhere. H. Dahl spoke specifically about the need to provide post-secondary education that isn't only focused on a 4-year degree. She shared that UW-Madison's decision to cut the Farming Short Course was a mistake. Sees that that the tech colleges are doing a good job, but more needs to be done for students that are not inclined toward a 4-year degree.
- e. Kelly Herness, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, shared that without her family background in agriculture she would not be pursuing post-secondary agricultural education. Her high school had good ag and FFA programming; however, she identified the pressure to take other courses, particularly, college prep and advanced placement courses not connected to ag. K. Herness identified the need to include ag education as part of the core class requirements or to incorporate ag ed into existing core classes.
- f. Amy Jentges, a student at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, shared that she grew up on dairy farm, so she knew she would focus on agricultural education and career pathways. Growing up, she looked forward to being part of FFA, but Ozaukee County schools did not have ag education programming. She used "school choice" to attend a school in Sheboygan County in order to participate in FFA and ag education programs. A. Jentges noted that this approach is inaccessible for many students and virtual ag education could help reach more students and improve accessibility. While it is not the same as hands-on learning, virtual ag education could help raise awareness that ag careers are an option and diversify the field.
- g. Chair Schoenborn facilitated a Q&A during which all panelists spoke about:
 - i. The importance of FFA. They all appreciated the hands-on courses and field experience. Noted that FFA helps promote the diversity of skills and pathways—there is something for everyone in FFA. The panel also noted the value of the Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) and career development events.
 - ii. The panelists spoke about what works well for engaging young people on social media related to ag education and career pathways. They also spoke about their experiences engaging and/or becoming FFA state officers.
 - iii. The panelists identified that it is best to engage young students in ag education in 4K-6th grades. Noted that high school was often too late.
- h. B. Leonard addressed the panel's points about the elimination of the Farming Short Course at UW-Madison. She noted that the UW and the Wisconsin Technical College System is working together to find an alternate solution – looking to offer course for credit at tech colleges and then provide the on-campus experience at UW.

5. Updates and Items of Interest

- a. Growing Wisconsin magazine – Sec. Romanski shared the latest issue of the [Growing Wisconsin](#). The issue is focused on topics such as youth, cultivating the workforce, and youth connecting with tribal agriculture. Journal Communications (Farm Flavor Media) funds and publishes the magazine.

6. Council Review of SFY2022 Annual Report Draft

- a. Review and Discuss Council Activities Review and the Agricultural Education Program Reviews by DPI, WTCS, UW System, Division of Extension – J. Cole walked the Council through the draft Annual Report, including the elements of the report such as state agency highlights and the agricultural education reviews provided by the Department of Public Instructions, Wisconsin Technical College System, University of Wisconsin System, and UW-Madison Division of Extension.
 - i. S. Wendt noted the DPI review shows a decrease in student enrollments in agricultural education during the 2020-21 academic year due to the pandemic. Hands-on learning programming was a challenge at that time. She also noted that next year's report will be able to include more information about ag education in middle schools.
 - ii. K. Bernhardt noted the decreased enrollments in ag education areas across the UW system. Follow trend lines with overall decreases to 4-year college enrollments.
 - iii. K. Martin noted that Division of Extension will include a great focus on 4-H programming in future reports.

Council members identified and approved minor edits to the report for clarity of meaning and grammar. Particularly, language was added to the DPI review to include 260,979 students were enrolled in grades 9-12 during the 2020-21 academic year.

- b. Review and Discuss Council Leadership – Chair Schoenborn lead the Council in a discussion regarding the currently leadership and executive committee membership. G. Cisweski moved to keep the current chair and executive committee members in place to develop bylaws and work on goals for the next year. B. Leonard seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
- c. Review Recommendation for Statutory Change – Chair Schoenborn reviewed the recommendation for the Council to seek statutory changes to at Wis. Stats. s. 15.227(15)(a)7., s. 106.40(4s)(c), and s. 106.40(5) to:
 - i. Change "University of Wisconsin-Extension" references to "University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension"; and
 - ii. Change references to the "chancellor of" to the "dean and director of".

L. Lee moved to approve, Sec. Romanski seconded, recommendation approved unanimously.

- d. Identify Structure Recommendations – No other recommendations were made to pursue structural changes within the SFY2022 Annual Report. Council members identified that topics for discussion at future Council meetings should include reviewing who is included in the Council and look to expand to include Tribal members and youth members from Agriculture Youth Council, FFA, and/or 4-H.
- e. Identify Additional Recommendations, Opinions, or Dissents – The Council had no additional recommendations, opinions, or dissents regarding the SFY2022 Annual Report. P. Palmby moved to approve the report as drafted with the with the edits previously discussed and the adopted recommendation to seek minor technical statutory changes, S. Wendt seconded. Report approved unanimously.

7. Subcommittee Report Outs

- a. Goal 1 – Co-Chairs Betsy Leonard and Greg Cisewski reported that the subcommittee is making progress. A survey of K-12 and tech college educators and faculty was conducted, and the subcommittee received 41 responses. A report on the survey results will be provided at the November 30th Council meeting.
- b. Goal 2 – Chair Sharon Wendt and Sally Ladsten, DPI Education Consultant reported that the subcommittee met to review the strands of the agricultural education pathway. Thereafter, the

subcommittee approved the updated strands via survey. S. Ladsten will share the pathway document with the Council. The subcommittee is looking for input on additional careers to include and how they are organized under the strands. The goal is to have the final roll-out in fall after review and approval by the Council at the November 30th meeting.

- c. Goal 3 – Chair Paul Palmby reported that the subcommittee met with representatives from the Future of Farming Foundation to learn about their efforts and outreach. The subcommittee will also meet with representatives from the School for Agricultural and Environmental Studies (SAGES) in Fox Lake. B. Hagenow will reach out to SAGES to coordinate a presentation for the Council at the November 30th meeting, along with a presentation by the Future of Farming Foundation.

8. Wrap-up

- Chair Schoenborn noted that the November 30th meeting will include setting the calendar for Council meetings in 2023.
- Sec. Romanski highlighted how impressive the members of the Agriculture Youth Council are and noted that DATCP recently hired a council alum. L. Lee appreciated the panel's comments on getting ag education into all grade levels.
- Sec. Romanski noted that the Meat Talent Development Program has developed outreach materials and they will be launching soon at meatpathways.wi.gov. Any input is welcome. L. Lee complimented the meat pathways materials.

9. Adjourn

P. Palmby moved to adjourn, G. Cisewski seconded. Council meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.