

# Wisconsin Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council

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**Full Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 2, 2023**  
**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Wisconsin Technical College Systems Office**  
**McCarthy Board Room**  
**4622 University Ave.**  
**Madison, WI 53707**

**Virtual Meeting (ZoomGov Meeting)**

## ***MEETING MINUTES APPROVED – MAY 31, 2023***

**Members Present:** Kevin Bernhardt\*; Gary Besaw\*; Gwen Boettcher; Greg Cisewski\*; Jeff Edgar\*; Jeff Eide\*; Monica Gahan\*; Bob Hagenow\*; Eric Huschitt\*; Sen. John Jagler\*; Corey Kucha\*; Betsy Leonard; Scott Loomans\*; Rep. Loren Oldenburg; Karl Martin; Paul Palmby; DWD Secretary-designee, Amy Pechacek; DATCP Secretary, Randy Romanski; Sara Schoenborn; Nick Stadnyk\*; Sharon Wendt\*; Jason Wood\*.

**Others Present:** Ashley Andre; Cara Connors; Sally Ladsten; Patrick Lonergan; Kietra Olson; Beth Schaefer; Jennifer Wakerhauser.

\*Virtual Attendee

### **I. Call to Order and Welcome**

Chair Sara Schoenborn called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **II. Roll Call**

The roll was called, and meeting attendance was documented.

### **III. Review Meeting Agenda for Changes or Additions**

Council members reviewed the items on the agenda and Chair Schoenborn briefly summarized each topic to be discussed. No additions or corrections to the meeting agenda were required.

### **IV. Review and Approval of WAEWDC Meeting Minutes**

#### **a. November 30, 2022**

Secretary-designee, Amy Pechacek made a motion to approve the November 30, 2022, WAEWDC Full Council meeting minutes. Karl Martin seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously and without correction.

### **V. Open Meeting and Public Records Requirements Training Presentation**

DWD Chief Legal Counsel, Jennifer Wakerhauser provided training to the Council members on Wisconsin's open meeting requirements and public records law and the importance of open government. Ms. Wakerhauser

informed the members that, as a government body, the Council must produce records upon request and explained what is and is not officially considered a record subject to the open records law. The training also covered what would constitute an official request for records and the process for how to appropriately respond to such a request. Council members were also informed on the requirements of Wisconsin's open meeting laws and the procedures that must be adhered to under the law. Ms. Wakerhauser concluded by encouraging the members to reach out if they had any questions on open meeting or public records compliance.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **a. Discuss WAEWDC Subcommittee Organization, Structure, & Goals**

Subcommittee on Goal #1 Co-Chair, Betsy Leonard reported that the subcommittee is making progress on its goal and has gathered input on recommendations for ways to support agricultural education instructors and conduct outreach to get more students interested in agriculture opportunities. The subcommittee plans to reconvene to discuss how to proceed with the recommendations and develop a strategy to distribute the information.

Subcommittee on Goal #2 Chair, Sharon Wendt turned the floor over to Sally Ladsten to provide an update on the subcommittee's recent efforts. Ms. Ladsten reported that information on the agricultural career pathway has been published on the Department of Public Instruction website. The subcommittee now plans to shift its work to focus on the component of its goal that relates to promoting the statewide agricultural pathway.

Subcommittee on Goal #3 Chair, Paul Palmby updated the Council members on the status of the draft WAEWDC Bylaws and reviewed the feedback that was previously provided by the members of the subcommittee and Executive Committee. Mr. Palmby noted that the work developing the bylaws has become the primary focus of the subcommittee and called the Council members' attention to the draft revised goal for the subcommittee stated in the latest version of the bylaws. Chair Schoenborn entertained a motion to adopt the language currently in the draft bylaws to be the goal of the subcommittee. Mr. Palmby made a motion to update the subcommittee's goal to be "develop and establish bylaws and organizational framework of the WAEWDC for approval of the Council". Secretary-designee Pechacek seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **b. Discuss Council Vacancies & Appointment Authority**

Chair Schoenborn reviewed the statutorily required positions that are currently vacant on the Council and the status of filling those positions. The appointing authority for the current vacancies is specified in statute and the Council deferred to the designated appointing authority to continue working on filling those positions.

## **VII. Wisconsin Farm Bureau – Agriculture in the Classroom Presentation**

Beth Schaefer presented on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Agriculture in the Classroom programs and the logic model for agricultural literacy curriculum. Ms. Schaefer provided examples of efforts currently underway to unify Wisconsin's Ag Literacy efforts by creating/curating a curriculum that supports core content, engaging educators and volunteers by meeting them where they are at figuratively and geographically, collaborating with like-minded organizations on Ag Literacy outreach efforts, and identifying methods to increase program credibility among teachers, volunteers, and students. The Council discussed the challenges and impediments that are hindering the program such as the lack of qualified instructors and licensing difficulties, as well as other challenges faced by teachers especially in the agricultural education area. The Council agreed this topic could be further explored by one of the subcommittees and thanked Ms. Schaefer for the informative presentation.

## **VIII. Updates and Council-Relevant Items of Interest**

Secretary-designee Pechacek highlighted DWD's apprenticeship programming, career pathways, and services for businesses and job seekers. Secretary Randy Romanski shared updates on the DATCP Meat Talent Development program and noted that materials for related career pathways were provided to pilot schools in January 2023 that are planned to be released statewide in March 2023. Secretary Romanski also mentioned that the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council is currently recruiting members for next year and highlighted relevant projects from Workforce Innovation Grant program to support agricultural education and training.

## **IX. 2023 WAEWDC Full Council Meeting Locations**

- a. Wed., May 31, 2023 – TBD**
- b. Wed., August 2, 2023 – State Fair Grounds (pending confirmation)**
- c. Mon., November 13, 2023 – TBD**

The Council discussed the meeting dates listed above and potential locations for each meeting. The Council tentatively planned to hold the May 31, 2023 WAEWDC Full Council meeting at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, WI. The meeting would start with a tour of the farm that is part of the Student Engagement Center on campus before the official business portion of the meeting.

## **X. Other Business**

No additional business was discussed by the Council at this time.

## **XI. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.