

MINUTES
MANITOWOC COUNTY
Extension Education and Agriculture Committee

DATE: Thursday, June 18, 2020

TIME: 4:45 P.M.

PLACE: Manitowoc County Office Complex, 4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc, WI

MINUTES:

- 1. Meeting called to order** at 4:45 PM by Catherine Wagner, Chair.
- 2. Roll call:** Present - Catherine Wagner, Tyler Martell, Jonathan Neils, Paul Hansen. Excused: Bob Cavanaugh
Also present: Scott Gunderson, Manitowoc County Ag Agent; Rob Burke, Department Director
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Niels, second by Hansen to approve agenda. All aye, motion carried.
- 4. Public Comment:** None.
- 5. Minutes:** Motion by Hansen, Neils to approve the MINUTES of the February 20, 2020 meeting. All aye. Approved.
- 6. Correspondence:** None.
- 7. Program Highlight:** Scott Gunderson provided a review of June as Dairy Month and other programming Scott has provided in support of agriculture and ag related businesses in Manitowoc County.
- 8. Dept. Director Report:** Burke reported that Scott Gunderson will retire effective August 3. Burke will pursue refilling his position, beginning with securing a commitment by Extension to co-sharing (as is current practice) an ag agent to replace Scott Gunderson. Burke noted that the University, including Extension is currently under a hiring freeze, so this fact may affect the speed at which he will be able to provide a job description and commitment to the Committee and Manitowoc County. Burke's goal is to secure that commitment by our August meeting.
A replacement Ag Agent will very likely have a more focused job description (focused on a particular area of agriculture which could be Dairy Management, Crops and Soils, Farm Financial Management. All these are areas Scott has built his capacity to fulfill over 30 + years, to cover the areas of focus in which a new agent would not initially have capability to deliver, Extension will rely on a regional skill/specialty sharing approach, where agents in nearby counties would have distinct areas of focus or specialties, and all educators would share their skill on a regional basis. Supervisor Hansen noted his concern that such an arrangement should not be an impediment to the new educator developing a strong and productive relationship with all areas of the Manitowoc County agriculture community, and so they will always know the Manitowoc Agent is established and recognized person to talk to.
- 9. Next Meeting:** August, 2020
- 10. Adjournment:** Motion by Hansen, second by Martell to adjourn. All Aye. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Recorded by Rob Burke, Department Director

Rob Burke

June 18, 2020