Oconto County 4-H Leaders’ Association Meeting  
Tau Room, St Clare Memorial Hospital, Oconto Falls, WI  

Monday, April 22, 2019

Attendees: Heather Rennie – President (Pasture Pirates) Brandon Dehne (Team Green/Camp), Jenna Steeno (Camp), Jessica Portier (Morgan Badgers), Ann Sievert - Treasurer (Morgan Badgers), Brooke Schaal (Little Seedlings), Cole Schaal (Little Seedlings), Chad, Sarah, Jack, Sam, and Ben Schindler (Little Seedlings), Lorene Johnston Hardie (Southernline), Kevy Schaal (Little Seedlings), Clara Schaal (Little Seedlings), Arvilla Rusnak (Countywide), Ben Hoppe (Extension), Isabella Rennie (Pasture Pirates), Brigid McDowell (Little River), Kim Kamke (4-H CLOVERS), Shelly Desterheft (Pasture Pirates), Chris Engebretsen (Oconto County Fair Board)

Heather Rennie called the meeting to order at 6:09pm.

Secretary Report

The secretary was absent. Ben agreed to take role of treasurer for the meeting and read the minutes. Motion to approve minutes made by Kim Kamke, second by Lorene Johnson. Motion was voted on and carried.

Treasurer’s Report

No financial report was officially presented. The treasurer information was transferred prior to the meeting. A brief overview of county finances was shared by outgoing treasurer, Arvilla Rusnak.

Old Business

Brief review of why project days were canceled by Ben. The numbers of participation in statewide travel experiences were shared. Call for volunteers to serve as adult chaperones at camp and request for more.

New Business

Breakfast on the Farm is June 9. Tech Changemakers will have a table to represent 4-H at the event and promote the project. There is a need for youth and adult volunteers for setup (June 7) and takedown (June 9). Those interested in volunteering should contact Aprill Flores.

Leaders’ Association Budget committee is needed to review the budget and put together the 2019-2020 budget prior to the May meeting. Arvilla Rusnak, Kim Kamke, and Brigid McDowell volunteered to join Ann on the budget committee. They would meet after the Leaders’ Association meeting to schedule a meeting time.

A vice president was needed for the Leaders’ Association. Heather explained the needs for the role this year and the need for someone to step into the President role at the end of 2019. Past election procedure was discussed and reviewed. Lorene Johnston volunteered to serve as the Vice President. Heather agreed to appoint Lorene as VP. Motion was made by Brigid McDowell. Second by Jessica Portier. Motion was voted on and carried.

Oconto County 4-H Speaking Fest will be held on May 11 at Little River Town Hall. Registration is open.
4-H Food Stand Committee was needed to form in preparation for 2019 county fair. Arvilla stated she would not be able to volunteer in the same capacity as past years. Volunteers for the committee were Arvilla Rusnak, Kim Kamke, Brigid McDowell, Brooke Schaal, Shelly Desterheft, Kevy Schaal. More volunteers are still needed to reduce the workload.

Dog Project leaders have announced that they are unable to continue offering classes for the dog project. Volunteers are needed to help lead the Dog Project moving forward. Carol Nelson has offered to advise adults willing to step up. Other options would be for dog project members to contact Anne Biernasz in Marinette County to join their classes in Wausaukee or to ask the Brown County Dog Project.

There will not be a Fairest of the Fair at the county fair this year due to a fair volunteer taking the year off. Heather encouraged families to contact the Fair Board if they wish to see the program continue.

It was suggested that those who applied for scholarship funds pay for the entire trip and the Leaders’ Association reimburse them after they present to Leaders’ Association. Ben mentioned that this should be avoided as paying members directly can become a very tricky issue with IRS and taxes. He recommended that the Leaders’ Association pay the state in full and then invoice families for their share.

Jo Hipke shared that the Travel Experiences Committee decided to cover 75% of funding for the 2 Space Camp participants and 1 American Spirit East participant. This leaves funding to pay for 4 participants to register for WI 4-H and Youth Conference. Jo explained what WI 4-H and Youth Conference was. Families were asked to encourage members to register for the conference.

Ben shared print outs on project leaders for various projects. Extension was asked to send a copy of project leader lists to all club leaders.

The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation requested a donation of $411 from the Oconto County Leaders’ Association. The donation is based on membership numbers in the county. Ben explained the role of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation and overviews how the money is used. A motion to approve the donation was made by Kim Kamke and seconded by Isabella Rennie. Motion was voted on and was carried.

**Open Discussion**

Ben provided updates on the New Family Handbook translation to Spanish. The translation was completed in-house in Madison at no-charge. The English and Spanish versions were made available online. A request was made to have Extension send hard copies to the Gillett Library. Extension agreed to follow-up on that request.

Project Days was discussed: Spring Fling’s cancellation and the need for volunteers. Ben created roles for volunteers for next year’s project days to help with recruitment of volunteers. The idea was also created that a partnership could be created with Marinette County which will increase the amount of participants and volunteers. Questions were brought up about requiring 4-H families to volunteer for events. Ben discussed issues with this regarding creating barriers for families that may not be able to volunteer. Volunteers are needed for many things, clubs are encouraged to speak with their families about the need to step up.

Chris Engebretsen gave a short talk about advanced wristband purchase for the fair. Carnival wristbands can be purchased in advance for $45. He stated need for participation in the carnival so that the carnival
will want to continue coming back. Members discussed issues with the high cost. Options were brought forward for clubs or Leaders’ Association to pay for some or all of a wristband so 4-H families could participate in the carnival.

**Fair Upcoming Dates**

Heather noted upcoming dates to register for the fair.

**Next Meeting date/place**

Next Meeting will be May 20. Time/Location TBD. Some members were not interested in having the meeting at the hospital conference rooms. Various options were put forward, including Gillett Library and Oconto Falls Library. Heather encouraged everyone to help make sure all clubs are represented at upcoming meetings. Brief discussion occurred that for the near future, all meetings will be Leaders’ Association meetings to encourage more participation.

June meeting will take place on June 24. Time/location TBD.

The meeting was adjourned by Heather at 7:36pm.