

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
COUNTY OF DODGE)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2016-08 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole April 26, 2016, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 4:30 p.m. CDT. Chair Steven Gray opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present:	John Allen	District #1
	Tim Tjosaas	District #2
	David Erickson	District #4
	Steven Gray	District #5
Members absent:	Rodney Peterson	District #3
Also present:	Paul Kiltinen	County Attorney
	Lisa Kramer	Finance Director
	Paula Rud	Administrative Assistant

Public Health Director Amy Roggenbuck met with the Board to discuss her request to fill the vacant Health Educator position. Ms. Roggenbuck reported the current vacancy is for a .75 FTE Health Educator position. This request was brought to the Board at a previous meeting and the Board requested that the Public Health Director come to the next scheduled Committee of the Whole to have a discussion on possible ways to fill this vacancy. After some discussion with lead staff in the department and with Administration the Public Health Director is proposing the vacant position be filled as a 1.0 FTE as she felt this may be a contributing factor in making the position more permanent thus in turn possibly reduce staff turnover.

Vacant Health  
Educator Position  
Discussion

4-H Program Coordinator Kelly Vincelette, SNAP Ed Educator Kelley Marty and Master Gardener Marian Kleinwort provided the Board with a University of Minnesota Extension update.

U of M Extension  
Update

Ms. Vincelette provided an overview of the Dodge County 4-H Program for 2015.

**Enrollment and Youth Served**

Enrolled 4-H members – 322

Adult volunteer – 132

Youth served through short term 4-H adventures and activities – 1,359

Total youth in Dodge County/Dodge County 4-H served: 1,813

**Dodge County 4-H is Paving the Way Statewide**

Program participants in long-term programming will reflect the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity of the statewide community served by 4-H Youth Development.

Currently Dodge County 4-H is a leader statewide in this effort.

- In the 2013-2014 4-H year 16% of youth enrolled in Dodge County 4-H identified with Hispanic.
- In the 2014-2015 4-H year 23% of youth enrolled in Dodge County 4-H identified with Hispanic.

U of M Extension  
Update - Continued

How we are unique to other counties:

- One 4-H club – consisting of lower income members
- One 4-H club – consisting of Hispanic members.

### **Dodge County Fair**

Dodge County 4-H uses the Fairgrounds year round as they have meetings and events throughout the year. The Dodge County Fair is a great place to showcase youth's accomplishments that have happened year round.

### **During the Fair they had:**

4-H Youth Participate: 202

Livestock Exhibits Shown: 658

General Projects and Cloverbuds Shown: 907

Total Projects/Exhibits Shown: 1,565

### **Dodge County Youth at the Minnesota State Fair**

Many youth earn trips to the Minnesota State Fair because of their participation at the Dodge County Fair. This year Dodge County youth really shined.

#### The following number of youth attend the following State Fair Events:

Youth Showing Livestock: 41

Youth Showing General Exhibits: 43

State Shooting Sports: 3

State Horse Show: 11

State Dog Show: 11

General Livestock Judging Team: 1

Rabbit Judging Team: 1

#### Dodge County had:

- One Youth in the State Fair Purple Ribbon Auction
- One Champion Breeding Animal
- A countless number of youth, volunteers, and parents that worked together and represented them self, their family, club, Dodge County and Minnesota 4-H exceptionally well.

Recent findings from Tufts University's 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development indicate that young people in 4-H:

- Are three times more likely to contribute to their communities than youth not participating in 4-H.
- Are 47% less likely to have risky or problem behaviors.
- Have better grades and are more emotionally engaged with school.
- Are more likely to have features of positive youth development: competence, confidence, connection, character and caring.

SNAP Ed Educator Kelley Marty discussed SNAP education in Dodge County.

U of M Extension  
Update - Continued

Ms. Marty shared the following information with the Board:

#### SNAP Education

- Classes to improve food literacy, food access and food skills of low-income Minnesotans through partnerships with multiple agencies.
  - Helps people purchase healthy foods within a limited budget
  - Teaches participants how to prepare healthy meals with quick and easy recipes
  - Encourages a physically active lifestyle
- Promoting systems, environmental and policy changes to support participants in making the healthy choice the easy choice.
- Uses evidence-based, behaviorally-focused curriculum.

#### Programming in Dodge County

- Triton Elementary
- Head Start Kasson
  - Technical assistance
  - Grocery store tours with parents
- SEMCAC Food Shelf
  - SHIP grant (\$500) for “healthy food nudges”
  - Laminator, signage, recipe holders
  - Making the healthy choice the easy choice

#### Triton Elementary

- Health Choices bulletin board
- Newsletter home each month
- Coordinate with FS for cafeteria promotions
  - Fruits and veggies, National School Breakfast Week
- Tables at school-wide events and promotions
- Student Nutrition Club
- Direct education in 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms
- After school cooking classes

#### Spanish Programming

- Nutrition workshop at Center Clinic

#### Cooking Matters in Spanish – Fall 2015

“I Can Prevent Diabetes” Program (in Spanish)  
Soon in Dodge Center – June 2016

Ms. Kleinwort provided the Board with a 2015 Master Gardener (MG) County Annual Report.

## Program Highlight:

U of M Extension  
Update - Continued

**Name of project:** Straw Bale Gardening

**Number of Master Gardeners involved:** 8

**Number of participants reached, noting adults and/or youth:** 175+ participants, with approximately 10 of those being youth.

**What participants intended to achieve by doing this project:**

In straw bale gardening, the bale acts as the container and is held together with two or three strings, and the outside crust of the bale serves as the container. Once the straw inside the bale begins to decompose, the straw becomes “conditioned” and ready to plant. They have had many folks ask about this type of gardening and their goal was to actually create a real straw bale garden for display at their annual 2015 Dodge County Fair.

**What participants did; what happened; what was the outcome:**

A small sub-group of their master gardeners teamed up to create a straw bale garden. The bale was bought and conditioned during the spring months. Once the bale was “conditioned” vegetables plants such as tomatoes, peppers, and herbs were planted in the bale. Over the summer, one of their Master Gardeners took care of the bale, watering when necessary. When fair time arrived in July, the bale was transported to the fair grounds for demonstration purposes. In addition, to help folks understand the process of straw bale gardening, an educational board was created with information, and handouts were made available containing specific details of how to prepare and care for a straw bale in the garden.

**Ways that participants can document that they were successful or had impact:**

They had a lot of interest in the straw bale gardening at the fair; many questions answered, handouts were also popular.

**Program outcomes in Extension Master Gardener special focus areas:**

**Environmental**

Conducted classes about composting/yard waste reduction or demonstrated composting techniques.

- Composting was addressed during two presentations on Organic gardening; five participants.

Conducted educational classes or direct consultation on invasive plants, insects, or disease.

- **What invasive species?** Burr Oak Blight – which was very prominent in our county this year.
- **How many participants?** Approximately five different consultations; eight participants

Conducted educational classes, programs or other projects related to increasing pollinators or other pollinator issues.

- **Class:** Butterfly gardening class
- **How many participants?** 75

## 2015 Youth Educational Efforts with Youth

U of M Extension  
Update - Continued

**One-time events** (youth participate in an education experience with Master Gardeners that is one day long or less)

Conducted a one-time garden education training in 4-H (e.g., project day, fair judging, etc.).

- Garden planting project, at a nursing home, three participants.
- Teaching kids how to plant a houseplant, coaching for 4-H fair entries, 27 participants.

Conducted one-time garden education class or activity for a school.

- Four different, independent classes; twenty-seven participants.

**Food Access:** 2015 Master Gardener educational efforts related to food access (e.g., creation of or education at community gardens, establishing farmers market, etc.).

Conducted one-time classes on home garden food production.

- Dodge Refresh Expo; 20 participants.

Created and/or maintained (alone or in partnership with another organization/group) one or more community gardens where individuals or families can grow their own food.

- Continued our contributions at three different community gardens in Dodge County. Approximately 67 participants.

Produced articles or productions for local media (newspaper, TV, radio, etc.).

- Newsletter articles: seven articles published in three different papers. One of the articles was titled: 'Kids have green thumbs too.' This particular article discussed gardening project ideas for kids.

Dodge County Extension Master Gardener group:

- Maintains a county phone line to answer consumer horticulture questions.
- Has a county Extension Master Gardener Facebook page.

## 2015 Extension Master Gardener program accomplishments:

They feel that their Dodge County MG program has become much more visible to the public this past year. For example, their Facebook page has generated a lot of interest and has reached many folks not only in Dodge County but throughout the state and beyond (i.e. IL, WI). Some of the posts surprisingly got nearly 300 views. There are a few of them who do post on the Facebook page, which is beneficial, because they all post different articles and it keeps the page current.

Extension continues to draw folks to their exhibits at the fair and local expos, and have seen an increase in requests on their county phone line. They have also realized this past year that they are assisting the community a lot more effectively with every new MG volunteer they add; these new volunteers bring diverse interests and expertise to their group.

U of M Extension  
Update - Continued

The Board thanked Ms. Vincelette, Ms. Marty and Ms. Kleinwort for the update.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

---

**STEVEN GRAY  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

---

**LISA KRAMER  
FINANCE DIRECTOR**

---

**DATED:**