

4-H Leaders Association Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Adeline Hess, at 6:34 p.m.

Attendees in person: Holly Luerssen, Nick Wild, Tina Wild, Robin Stowe, Rhonda Klement, Roseann Hoffman, and Shaughn Novy.

Attendees via Zoom: Adeline Hess, Carol Lease, Jennifer Swensen, Art Lersch, Paula Royce, Carrie Wincentsen, Shelli Hagerty, Corey Curtis, Kim Frisch and Justin Frisch.

Everyone introduced themselves and then the pledges were recited.

Camp Susan Transition

- Robin Stowe explained that a resolution will be introduced at the County Board meeting on February 23rd to end the lease between Langlade County and the 4-H Leaders Association as due to UW-Madison Extension policies, 4-H Leaders Association can no longer hold a lease for camp. Options discussed were to have the camp go back to the county or to assign the lease to the Fair Association. At one time the 4-H Leaders Association and the Fair Association were operating as one entity. If the lease were assigned to the Fair Association, there would be no change with camp from the county's perspective and it could continue to be operated just as it has been. The one sticking point is the funds. Revenues for camp are primarily received from rentals of Camp Susan and the current accounting procedures have been to keep 4-H camp funds in accounts that are separate from 4-H funds. Camp Susan expenses were disbursed from these accounts. Robin had the impression that Camp Susan revenues were held for the sole benefit of 4-H programs, but that is not the case. The Fair Association is interested in assuming the lease, but cannot do so until the 4-H Leaders Association decides if all or part of the Camp Susan Funds will be transferred to the new lessee. Robin's hope is that all 3 entities (Fair Association, 4-H Leaders Association, and the County Board) can go to the County Board on Tuesday with an agreement on the separation of these funds. If Camp Susan management transfers back to the county, Robin has no idea what will happen to it as the county does not have staff or resources to maintain it right now. If all or part of the Camp Susan funds are not transferred with the lease assumption, the Fair Association has indicated that they will not be able to assume the lease.
- Art confirmed that 4-H/Extension cannot continue to be the lessee of Camp Susan as it is not in line with educational programming. There is also a concern with office staffing as there has been a reduction from two full time employees to one, and there will not be more than one and a half full time employees in the office in the future. Art was not involved in the decision making regarding which entity the camp would go to, but he is supportive of the Fair Association taking it over if we can agree on funds. It is thought that there were some 4-H fundraisers for Camp Susan expenses, but we don't have the history of when those took place.

- The camp bank accounts were questioned and Shelli explained that there was a camp savings fund when she took over in 2012 and in the first half of 2016, a camp checking account was opened so that all camp related revenues and expenses could easily be tracked and kept separate.
- Jennifer Swensen stated that the use by community members and other groups does not follow the 4-H mission and responsibilities of maintaining facilities and having staff is not the business that 4-H is in.
- It was indicated there are a number of things that will need to be done at camp this year so in order for the Fair Association to take over the lease for camp, funds will need to be transferred.
- Holly shared discussion points of discontinuing the lease agreement with Langlade County and dispersing current funds. Recommendation from Extension is to make a one time donation to the future Camp Susan administration agency and the remainder of the funds stay with the Leaders Association for designated programs. The proposal was to divide funds into 3 pieces to provide start up costs to the future administration agency, 4-H camp programs, and 4-H educational programs.
- Robin clarified that the proposal is that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the funds would go to 4-H and only $\frac{1}{3}$ would go to the new administration agency which would be approximately \$14,000 for the administration agency and \$28,000 for 4-H.
- The question was raised as to what 4-H fundraisers have been completed for camp as there haven't been any since 2012. Any donations that came in since 2012 which was approximately \$14,000 came from individuals, the United Way for staining, donations for steps, etc. On average, going back to 2012, the expenses for camp are \$21,000 per year and income is about \$22,000. Staining of the buildings needs to be done every 3 years and costs about \$20,000. Over the past 7 years, there have been about \$10,000 of repairs each year. The Fair Association will not be supporting camp out of the fair funds as that is not their mission either so start up funds will need to be provided so camp can sustain itself. The Fair Association will not take on the lease with only \$14,000 or \$15,000. The Fair Association has a mission to support youth so they can help support youth to attend camp (paying registration fees).
- Jennifer stated that even considering that the camp funds have been separated, they were raised under the 4-H emblem and name.
- \$70,000 in repairs have been completed over the last 7 years. The walk-in cooler has to be replaced and buildings need to be stained so it is known that there are some considerable maintenance expenditures looming. If the camp is under the Fair Association, it can be opened this year whereas if nothing happens, it is likely that Camp Susan will remain dormant for another summer. If the camp does not get leased to anyone, it will stay with the county, but Eric Rantala advised the county that he would have to hire additional staff to work at the camp and that still doesn't provide any funding to maintain it. The county is not in a position at this time to assume the maintenance and management of Camp Susan.
- Roseann asked what legal obligations are present with camp. Similar to how fair had to separate, the same thing holds true for Camp Susan. All of the 4-H emblems and such will also need to be removed from camp per UW-Extension. Regardless of what

happens with the money, 4-H is being released from the lease. If the Fair Association has enough funds to take over camp and make it work, it will continue working just as it has.

- Roseann indicated 4-H Clubs were required to sell raffle tickets, but it is unclear as to when that raffle took place and if the funds were for 4-H or Camp Susan.
- Art asked if there is a counter proposal where some funds can be set aside for educational programming or is the Fair Association requiring all of the funds? Rhonda said the proposal is a 90%/10% split with 4-H keeping the 10% in the funds to help pay for 4-H camp fees. The 90% that would be transferred to the Fair Association would allow them to continue to operate Camp and plan for the long range capital improvements that are needed.
- Between the 2 proposals, is there a way to meet in the middle at 75/25 or 70/30?
- Nick Wild said that the Fair Association is willing to take on all of the expenses so they should have the funds to pay for those.
- Shaughn Novy asked who will be handling all of the paperwork for camp and it was clarified that all of the paperwork will be removed from the 4-H office and taken over by the Fair Association.
- Robin's understanding is that the funds that are being held by the Fair Association when there is a surplus are for the purpose of helping with youth development and potentially 4-H.
- Art asked why the Fair Association wants to take over Camp Susan. Several members of the Fair Association expressed their thoughts on the educational, recreational, leadership, outdoor adventure, and growth opportunities that Camp Susan offers to youth and adults alike and recognize that it is a hidden gem of Langlade County. The Fair Association does not want to see camp sit idle, deteriorate, or be sold. The mission of the Fair Association includes education of our youth and Camp Susan provides an opportunity that many kids may not otherwise have. The Fair Association plans to organize a sub Camp Susan Advisory Committee inviting other community members such as Diane Preboski and Koepfel's or other leaders that have been actively involved in 4-H Camp Susan activities.
- Art asked Robin hypothetically if a decision cannot be reached tonight, will there be more time to talk and would it be possible to delay the resolution until March. Yes, but the preference is that it needs to go to County Board next week. The concern is that if it is delayed for another month, County Board may look at things differently and there is momentum now. A camp caretaker still has to be hired, insurance obtained, etc. and work to open camp begins in early May so delaying would jeopardize the opening of camp this year.
- Concern was expressed at how quick things are moving. Holly clarified that it was not known the momentum would pick up this quick as we do have several new members on the 4-H Leaders Association. UW-Extension's main concern is the funds.
- Robin reiterated that the momentum is to release the 4-H Leaders Association and at the same time provide the lease to the Fair Association. Extension does not care who will take the lease, but the county does and without someone to take the lease, the county will not let 4-H out of the lease.

- Art asked if this does not happen in February and it goes to March or April and Robin does not know what the county would do, is Robin saying that the county would end up selling the camp in that short period of time? Robin explained the certain momentum that is being referenced when information is brought to a board of elected officials. If there is a delay, maybe we no longer capture the attention of the county board as other priorities arise and it gets put back on the shelf and we will get back to it in 3 years.
- Tina Wild expressed concern that it seems 4-H does not want the camp to succeed. Once again, we are fighting over funds, but why we would only be willing to give the new lessee $\frac{1}{3}$ of the funds which won't even cover expenses? Maybe 75/25, but $\frac{1}{3}$ is mind blowing.
- Jennifer suggested that the Langlade County 4-H Leaders Association needs to make a motion to make a donation to the Fair Association.
- Roseann asked if anyone else can take the lease of the camp. Yes, but keep in mind that if a non-profit takes it over, they can charge higher prices. Roseann has put some feelers out and there is an individual up in the area of camp interested in managing the camp and she would not propose to give them any start up funds. It was stated that if more information regarding this situation had been provided, individuals could have come better prepared to the meeting.
- Holly explained that information from the state came about 2 weeks ago and Art then discussed with Robin and she apologized for how quickly this all came about and that there hasn't been time to provide the back story for this.
- Robin indicated that how we got there was not the Fair Association coming to the county saying we want to take this over. A meeting regarding a different Fair item was taking place when Camp Susan was brought up and then things moved very quickly. It went to Public Property, the Fair Association, and now here.
- A concern was raised that if there is this much animosity, then the Fair Association does not want camp.
- Art asked Robin if the Leaders Association votes to terminate the lease tonight, what happens if we don't reach an agreement on the funds. Does the lease go back to 4-H? There may be language in the lease that the county or 4-H can terminate the lease.
- Art also indicated that 4-H is running at a deficit, but we also want camp to be able to continue. Can we do 80/20?
- Rhonda did mention that the Fair Association is also in existence to help the youth of Langlade County when they come to the Fair Association to request funds.
- Shaughn asked that assurances be provided for 4-H such as how many weeks are available for their use. In the past, there has been a one week long camp plus counselor training. Art agrees, but thinks that those things can be discussed later.
- Roseann asked what the cost was to run camp with it being completely closed in 2020. \$2,257.54 were the costs last year when camp was not opened at all.
- Motion made by Justin Frisch and 2nd by Nick Wild to release the 4-H Leaders Association from the lease of Camp Susan. All ayes. Motion carried.
- The way the resolution is drafted is that it is removing the 4-H Leaders Association and assigning to the Fair Association.

- Roseann feels it is a viable option to sit on the decision for a year since it will not cost more than \$5,000 to let camp sit for another year as it came too fast and too hard so there may be options we are not looking at.
- Paula Royce asked who it is benefiting if the camp sits closed for another year? It certainly isn't benefiting the youth. Roseann said our 4-H programs are in jeopardy as we don't have the fundraisers to support them right now and we need to protect the 4-H program itself.
- If a decision is not made tonight, a counter proposal of funding is needed for the Fair Association by March 4th in order for them to make a decision.
- It was brought up that if an agreement on funds is not known and presented to county board on Tuesday, they will not take any action.
- Tina made a motion to donate 80% of the camp funds to the Fair Association and 20% will remain in the Langlade County 4-H Leaders Association. 2nd by Nick. Roll call vote:

Carol--no

Justin--yes

Carrie--yes

Nick--yes

Shelli--yes

Tina--yes

Corey--yes

Roseann--no

Adeline--yes

Shaughn--yes

Motion carried

Secretary's report

- Was mailed to members. Carrie requested to change Cory Price/Prince to Corey Curtis in all places in the minutes.
- Motion to approve with corrections was made by Corey, 2nd by Carrie. All ayes, motion carried.

Treasurer's report

- Shelli provided the Treasurer's report. A savings account was opened to easily track the Joe Novak donations for a scholarship which Joe and Deb Wirth were going to work on the requirements for and another for the funds raised for International Trips that Carolyn Heuss was scheduled to participate in. Balances are \$634 in Novak scholarship, \$1,155 in the international trips, \$3,056.07 in checking, \$21,440.69 in the variable rate savings, \$20,560.21 in savings, \$4,495.41 in the Lakeside scholarship, \$35,586.74 in camp savings, and \$9,612.13 in camp checking.
- 6 Lakeside scholarships were awarded in May 2020, but only 4 recipients met the requirements by the end of January so 4 were paid out for a total of \$1,200 leaving the balance of the account at \$4,495.41.
- Uncleared checks will be voided in Quickbooks as there are several from the fair 2 years ago so the checking account balance will increase. If any of the checks happen to still be cashed, we will have to enter them back into the system at that time as it does happen once in awhile where checks are cashed several years after they are issued.

Motion to approve by Tina, 2nd by Nick. All ayes. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

Nominations for President. Nick Wild nominated Adeline who declined. Carol nominated Roseann who accepted. Motion to cast a unanimous ballot made by Justin, 2nd by Carrie. All ayes. Motion carried.

Nominations for Vice President: Shaughn nominated Carol who declined. Shaughn nominated Tina who accepted. Shelli motion to cast unanimous ballot, 2nd by Nick. All ayes. Motion carried.

Nominations for Secretary: Tina nominated Carrie who declined. Roseann nominated Carol who declined. Roseann nominated Nick, but he is from the same family as Tina. Corey was nominated by Tina and 2nd by Nick. Nick made a motion to case a unanimous ballot, 2nd by Tina. All ayes. Motion carried.

Exelon Grants

- A little history on the grants for new members is that in 2016, Shelli received a \$10,000 grant from her employer, Constellation--an Exelon Company and later that year she received a \$2,000 grant from the Packers. There was also \$1,911 received from the Exelon Dollars for Doers program as well as personal donations through payroll deductions for a total of \$13,911.
- It was suggested to provide some of the Exelon grant funds to the clubs as it has been a difficult year for clubs to fundraise and hold events. Perhaps they could use it for some community service or other educational programming. The clubs would be requested to provide a report back to the Leaders Association of how the funds were used such as sending some pictures or a short description of what was done which could also be included in the forecast.
- Tina made a motion to provide \$500 to each of the 13 community clubs plus the 2 spin clubs (Horses and Archery) from the Exelon grant funds and put the remaining funds in a separate savings account for future use for perhaps something similar to this and a letter be sent with the funds indicating they were from a grant from Shelli's employer for her volunteer service. 2nd by Justin. All ayes. Motion carried.
- The description of where the funds are being disbursed from will be sent for review prior to sending to the clubs.

Project Discovery Day

- Today was the first day to pick up Project Discovery Day kits. A total of 72 youth in the combined effort of Lincoln and Langlade County. 36 from Langlade County--all 4-H as no non 4-Hers participated.
- A question was asked as to why the fees for Project Discovery Day payments went to Lincoln County. It was easier to run all funds through one county so the Lincoln County Leaders Association will be handling them for this event.

Communications Contest & Music/Talent Explosion Committee

- Looking for leaders to join a committee to lead these events in some format.

Leaders Association Board Workshop

- March 11th at 6 p.m.
- Not mandatory, but highly encouraged to attend.

New Club Leader Training

- There are a variety of leaders who are new to their positions so a training is being offered once a month for 4 different time periods to target different pieces of club leadership and they can bring a youth with them to the training. Please help spread the word for this strength builder for leaders.

Programming

- Policies have not changed at this point. Indoors 10 or under, outdoors 50 or under. Otherwise, find virtual ways or a hybrid. Homemade goodies are allowed, but must be individually packaged.
- Hoping for new guidance around April 1st for the rest of spring and summer events and activities.

Upcoming Events

- Family Game Night hosted by Ambassadors tomorrow night for an hour with 3 different activities.
- Ambassadors are planning STEM take and learn kits for cloverbuds and another for older 4-H members with 6-7 activities including basic supplies.
- Ambassadors in Lincoln and Langlade County will be holding a food drive March 1-17, 2021 with a competition between the 2 counties to see which county collects the most. Drop off will be at the Extension Office.

Next meeting: March 18th hybrid Zoom and in person.

Nick made a motion to adjourn at 9:02 p.m., 2nd by Tina. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Shelli Hagerty (filling in for this meeting as there was no secretary until elections took place)