

--DRAFT PENDING SUB-COMMITTEE APPROVAL--

**WISCONSIN DAIRY TASK FORCE 2.0
SUB-COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
MINUTES**

--DRAFT PENDING SUB-COMMITTEE APPROVAL--

February 20, 2019

The Education and Workforce sub-committee of the Wisconsin Dairy Task Force 2.0 met on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 beginning at 2:00 p.m. via teleconference, based at DATCP, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53708 in Room 456.

Call to Order

Ashley Andre called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Members Present

Members present included: Paul Scharfman, Amy Penterman, Rene Johnson, and Dave Buholzer. DATCP staff Ashley Andre, Krista Knigge, and Deb Henderson-Guenther also attended. John Schmidt and Lori Weyers could not attend.

Minutes

Approve minutes of last meeting

Ms. Andre asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Amy Penterman made a motion. Paul Scharfman seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Consider draft recommendations

DATCP Division of Agricultural Development administrator Krista Knigge gave background on recommendation #6, barriers that exist in the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's policy and toolkit. DATCP staff Deb Henderson-Guenther gave a brief overview of the service that DATCP's Client Assistance Program provides.

Ms. Penterman asked what type of farmers this applies to. Ms. Henderson-Guenther clarified that it is for any farmer with a disability that would need to meet eligibility requirements. Ms. Penterman asked if it would apply to a dairy farmer transitioning to a beef operation. It would not apply to this policy since it is a different business.

Mr. Scharfman moved to move this recommendation forward. Dave Buholzer seconded.

Rene Johnson asked why there are more than \$10 million in carryover dollars as noted in the draft recommendation. Ms. Henderson-Guenther explained that there is not one cause, but multiple factors. The group unanimously approved to move the recommendation forward. Dairy

Task Force 2.0 Chair Mark Stephenson will make edits to the recommendations, maintaining the intent but ensuring a consistent voice and format. Final recommendations will be approved at an upcoming teleconference.

Mr. Scharfman gave an overview of recommendation #17. He shared how Wisconsin has a competitive advantage in agriculture, but there are impediments including 'soft skills' for workers. He shared his experience in Dodge County surveying for what the main issues preventing individuals from working are. Some identified include health reasons and child care. The recommendation outlines how assistance could be given to rural businesses who pursue healthy workplace practices and how there is a 'hidden workforce' that could enter the workplace with some assistance.

Mr. Buholzer raised a question about hiring those with criminal backgrounds. He shared an experience from his own business. Mr. Scharfman noted that he understood the concern.

Ms. Penterman wondered if there are studies about the statistics of how many offenders re-offend. Mr. Buholzer asked if we should make a point about hiring those with criminal backgrounds a separate recommendation.

Ms. Andre provided insight that Chair Stephenson has shared in the past that if we are not the experts in a certain field, we can identify a barrier exists but do not have to specify a direct solution; just that it is an area that needs attention.

Mr. Scharfman asked for next steps. Ms. Andre will share the draft with Chair Stephenson for his feedback. The sub-committee can approve the final recommendation in the upcoming teleconference.

Ms. Penterman moved to advance the draft recommendation for Chair Stephenson for his feedback. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The group approved it unanimously.

Ms. Johnson gave an overview of the recommendation #24, developing a dairy internship program to attract college and tech school students to production agriculture as a career option. It would need support from UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Technical College System. The program would help develop and support the host businesses to help businesses and students have a valuable internship experience.

Ms. Penterman shared her support for the recommendation. Mr. Buholzer shared his experience with an internship working with Blackhawk Technical College. They did a wonderful job, and it was customized to our needs. Ms. Johnson had reached out to Blackhawk Tech in developing the recommendation for their insight.

Ms. Penterman shared concern that with the reduction of UW-Extension staff around the state, would there be enough staff to facilitate the program. It could be another good reason to keep funding and positions if the staff are helping with efforts to develop our workforce, like internships.

Ms. Johnson asked if there should be a specific funding amount for this recommendation. Mr. Buholzer mentioned there may be some value to adding some specifics or goals for a first year and then following years. Ms. Johnson will work to further edit and develop this recommendation before our next teleconference.

Mr. Scharfman moved to advance the draft recommendation for additional developing. Ms. Penterman seconded. The group unanimously approved.

Ms. Andre asked for any additional recommendations or discussion.

Identify next steps

Ms. Andre will ask Chair Stephenson to make edits to the first two recommendations. Ms. Johnson will send back revisions on the internship program by the end of the day Monday, February 25.

Set a conference call

The sub-committee chose to have their conference call on March 1, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Buholzer made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Penterman seconded. The sub-committee adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes drafted by Ashley Andre.