

--DRAFT PENDING SUB-COMMITTEE APPROVAL--

**WISCONSIN DAIRY TASK FORCE 2.0
SUB-COMMITTEE ON GENERATIONAL SUCCESSION AND TRANSITION
MINUTES**

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February 21, 2019

The Generational Succession and Transition sub-committee of the Wisconsin Dairy Task Force 2.0 met on Thursday, February 21, 2019 beginning at 1:00 p.m. via teleconference, based at DATCP, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53708 in Room 456.

Call to Order

Chair Dave Daniels called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Members Present

Members present included: Melissa Haag, Dave Daniels, Ryan Klussendorf, and Charles Untz. Joy Kirkpatrick of the Center for Dairy Profitability at UW-Madison was also present. Dairy Task Force 2.0 Chair Mark Stephenson and DATCP staff Ashley Andre also attended.

Dan Pearson was unable to attend.

Minutes

Approve minutes of last meeting

Chair Daniels asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ryan Klussendorf made a motion. Melissa Haag seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public comment

Chair Daniels shared that the sub-committee received a public comment from John Young. Chair Stephenson provided some background about the submission. Mr. Young has spoken at a past Task Force 2.0 meeting about the challenges to attract and retain young people in the industry.

Chair Daniels noted that the document does recognize apprenticeships and some other topics that the group has touched on. Mr. Klussendorf asked if adult education had been addressed specifically in other sub-committees. Ashley Andre said it had not.

Charles Untz asked if any recommendations included the need for additional staff to support farmers with business and succession planning. Ms. Andre shared that it will be discussed in recommendation #23 today.

Chair Daniels asked if this public comment will be shared with others. It will be shared with all Dairy Task Force 2.0 members. Chair Stephenson noted that we wanted to take a look at it, give it consideration, and see if certain points may be helpful as we work through our recommendations. Chair Daniels asked the group if they would like time to review the public comments, and if there was anything else they wanted to incorporate, we could do that at the next teleconference.

Consider draft recommendations

Ms. Haag provided an overview to recommendation #21. It has three main components: maintaining a state dairy scholarship, resume funding for farmers to complete transition or succession planning, and provide financial support for mentors in dairy apprenticeship programs. Chair Daniels asked for discussion.

Chair Stephenson asked if the group had decided to do a recommendation on support for producers who chose to exit dairy farming. Ashley Andre provided background on a recommendation that the Education and Workforce sub-committee is developing about DWD Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and barriers that exist with a current policy. There is not a specific recommendation about DWD services for all farmers.

Chair Daniels asked if the funding for farmers to complete transition or succession planning could mimic the previous Dairy 30x20 grants. Joy Kirkpatrick and Ms. Haag said it could, but we are not putting in specifics on that. Chair Stephenson added that concepts or guidelines are acceptable even if specific dollars or perimeters aren't known.

Mr. Untz asked what services are available for farmers exiting dairy farming. Ms. Kirkpatrick said that is unclear depending on who you talk to with DWD. Mr. Untz suggested a recommendation that directs someone to clarify what services are available through DWD for farmers exiting dairy farming and seeking a career. Ms. Andre clarified that this is not being covered by another sub-committee. Chair Stephenson noted how important it is for farmers to have support as they exit farming. Mr. Untz will draft a recommendation before the next teleconference.

Mr. Klussendorf made a motion to advance the draft recommendation #21 forward. Ms. Haag seconded. The group agreed unanimously. Chair Stephenson will edit for voice and consistency. The group will finalize the recommendation in the next teleconference.

Mr. Klussendorf provided background on recommendation #22, supporting reimplementing of the beginning farmer and farm asset owner tax credit with modifications. He pointed out two possible changes since its original form: adding agricultural land as an asset and increasing the individual net worth to less than \$500,000 rather than \$200,000.

Chair Daniels noted that the increase in net worth is logical, especially if someone has purchased a home or something else. Ms. Haag was curious about how this applies to beginning farmers. Ms. Andre provided an update that the Access to Capital sub-committee is drafting a recommendation encouraging WHEDA and FSA to update their beginning farmer definition.

Ms. Haag moved to move the draft forward. Mr. Klussendorf seconded. The group unanimously agreed and will finalize the recommendation in the next teleconference.

Chair Daniels gave an overview of recommendation #23, adding additional resources and better coordinating current activities for transition and succession planning. Ms. Kirkpatrick noted that coordinating efforts is always helpful especially with the range of geographic areas and how different people are serving different locations. It is helpful to all be talking. Mr. Untz noted that he thought it was well-written.

Mr. Untz pointed out that when elected officials introduce bills with new funding, they need to propose where that money is coming from. Chair Daniels noted that there may be some funding available from USDA, but the funding is not specified in this recommendation. The group agreed to move the draft recommendation forward to Chair Stephenson for his edits.

Identify next steps

Ms. Andre added that Mr. Untz should send his draft recommendation by the end of the day February 25.

Set a conference call

The sub-committee chose to have their conference call on February 28 at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Untz moved to adjourn. Mr. Klussendorf seconded it. The sub-committee adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Minutes drafted by Ashley Andre.