

--DRAFT PENDING SUB-COMMITTEE APPROVAL--

**WISCONSIN DAIRY TASK FORCE 2.0  
SUB-COMMITTEE ON DAIRY AND RURAL COMMUNITY VITALITY  
MINUTES**

--DRAFT PENDING SUB-COMMITTEE APPROVAL--

**March 7, 2019**

The Dairy and Rural Community Vitality sub-committee of the Wisconsin Dairy Task Force 2.0 met on Thursday, March 7, 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 Beth Wells called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Members Present**

Members present included: Don Hamm, Dave Buholzer, Darin Von Ruden, John Schmidt, Dennis Bangart, Beth Wells, Mike DeLong, and Jerry Schroeder. Dairy Task Force 2.0 Chair Mark Stephenson and DATCP staff Ashley Andre also attended.

Janet Clark and Melissa Haag were unable to attend.

**Minutes**

*Approve minutes of last meeting*

Chair Wells asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Darin Von Ruden made a motion. John Schmidt seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

*Consider recommendations*

Chair Wells explained today's agenda; to discuss each recommendations, make revisions if necessary, and approve if we choose to move the recommendations forward.

Chair Wells introduced recommendation #5, investments in a study. Mr. Von Ruden emphasized the intent of the recommendation to ensure the study is done at the local level. Mr. Schmidt agrees that may be missing a bit now. Ms. Wells started to walk through the recommend solution for edits.

- In this sentence, remove 'statewide.' The goal is to bring ~~statewide~~ economic studies and indices to the awareness of local communities and their local contributions of the dairy and agricultural sector.
- In the last sentence, edit to: Demographic and economic history, trends, or proposed changes within the models should be used *to help communities set goals for the continued*

*integrity of their community* or proposed long-term benefits of future infrastructure changes.

- Clarify who would do this work. Edit the first sentence to: *Additional funding should be budgeted for the University of Wisconsin* to study existing or proposed dairy and agricultural infrastructures in a community, county, or broader region and the benefits of the impact that currently exists or the benefits of future impact where new infrastructure is proposed.

Mr. Von Ruden made a motion to move the recommendation forward with the noted changes. Mr. Schroeder seconded. The group approved the motion.

Chair Wells introduced recommendation #8 and read the content. Mr. Von Ruden made a motion to advance this recommendation to the full Dairy Task Force 2.0. Mr. Bangart seconded. The group approved the motion.

Chair Wells introduced recommendation #10. Mr. Hamm read the solutions. Ms. Andre will make the edit to remove the extra 'to generate' from point 5.

Mr. Schmidt asked what the percentage should be for local roads in recommended solution one. Mr. Hamm does not have a specific number in mind. This is something that would need to work through the state budget and legislative process. Mr. Schroeder shared his experience in Madison speaking with members of the Assembly and Senate about transportation funding.

Mr. Schroeder moved to approve this recommendation with the noted change, to remove 'to generate.' Mr. Schmidt seconded. The group agreed to move the recommendation forward.

Ms. Andre gave an overview of recommendation #11, support for educational programming for a non-farm audience. Ms. Wells read the recommendation. Mr. Buholzer asked what level of education this would be at. Ms. Andre said that it was not specified. Mr. Schroeder asked about funding for this since he heard about a proposal for technical colleges to do short-term education in key areas. Could this apply? Mr. Buholzer noted that if it moves forward, these are questions that would need to be answered since it is vague.

Mr. DeLong moved to advance the recommendation to the full Dairy Task Force 2.0. Mr. Schmidt seconded. The group approved the motion.

Chair Wells introduced recommendation #14, the importance of agritourism. Mr. Schmidt gave an overview of the recommendation and three possible solutions. Chair Wells asked to remove the end of the last sentence of the problem statement. It would read: Agritourism is important to the economic vitality of small, rural communities and the Wisconsin dairy industry ~~and would like to recommend measures to help ensure that these businesses can start up or continue forward with their direct marketing of dairy and dairy products to consumers.~~ Ms. Andre will make the change.

Mr. Hamm made a motion to move the recommendation forward with the noted change. Mr. Schmidt seconded. The group agreed to move the recommendation forward.

Chair Wells introduced recommendation #15. Mr. Delong gave an overview about the importance of internet access. There are things being worked on for rural broadband, and we want to emphasize that continues. Mr. Von Ruden moved to forward this recommendation to the full Dairy Task Force 2.0. Mr Schroeder seconded. The group approved the motion.

Chair Wells introduced recommendation #16, animal official identification. She read the problem statement and recommended solution before asking for discussion. Mr. Schmidt noted that it is straightforward. Chair Wells clarified it would be official identification for any animal leaving the farm. Mr. Buholzer has no issues. He thinks it is important to keep the state from having a devastating disease.

Mr. Buholzer made a motion to take this recommendation to the full Dairy Task Force 2.0. Mr. Hamm seconded. The group approved the motion.

Mr. Hamm read recommendation #36, importance of local involvement. Mr. Schmidt clarified that this does not mandate there is a farmer representative on the board; just that they are encouraged to participate. Mr. Hamm acknowledged that is correct; there is no mandate.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to move the recommendation on to the full Task Force 2.0. Mr. Buholzer seconded. The group approved the motion.

*Identify next steps*

The group thanked each other for their efforts in putting these recommendations together.

**Adjournment**

The sub-committee adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

Minutes drafted by Ashley Andre.