

Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council

MINUTES

Friday, September 17, 2021

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Webex

Council Members present:

*	Kevin Berhardt		Tom Gillis		Sen. Howard Marklein		John Rosenow
x	Gary Besaw		Bob Hagenow	x	Shelly Mayer		Jill Runde
x	Gwen Boettcher	x	Erik Huschitt	**	Rep. Loren Oldenburg	x	Sara Schoenborn
	Greg Cisewski	x	Pete Kondrup	x	Kristin Olson	*	Nick Stadnyk
**	Sen. Alberta Darling	*	Corey Kuchta	*	Paul Palmby	x	Rep. Gary Tauchen
x	Jeff Edgar	*	Larry Lee	**	Sec. Amy Pechacek	x	Sharon Wendt
	Jeff Eide	x	Miranda Leis		Pam Porter		
x	Monica Gahan	x	Betsy Leonard	x	Sam Ridders		
*	Dale Gallenberg		Lynn Maki	x	Sec. Randy Romanski		

*Excused

Staff present: Jenifer Cole, DWD (**designee for Sec. Pechacek); Mitchell Muller, Rep. Oldenburg's Office (*designee for the Representative); Ashley Andre, DATCP; Rachel Keith, Sen. Darling's Office (**designee for the Senator)

Public present:

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- Chair Schoenborn called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.
- Chair Schoenborn shared that as this is not a regular Council meeting so minutes from the previous meeting were not reviewed. The June 2021 and September 2021 meeting minutes will be reviewed at the regular Council meeting in October.

2. Roll Call

- Attendance noted above.

3. Updates

- J. Cole shared the announced partnership between DWD and WEDC to roll out \$100 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds through the [DWD/WEDC Workforce Innovation Grant Program](#). Governor Evers' designated another \$30 million to other DWD workforce development initiatives.
- The Workforce Innovation Grants will provide up to \$10 million each to regional workforce development programs that will design and implement plans to help address workforce challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- J. Cole also shared that DWD's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation updated its existing business policies to make assistive technology services more accessible to self-employed individuals with disabilities, particularly those in farming and agri-business.

4. Council Review of SFY2020 Annual Report Draft

- J. Cole provided background information about the Annual Report—most recent report found was from 2015.

- J. Cole describe format of new draft report as a memorandum identifying the re-building activities of the Council over the past year and reviews conducted by educational institutions and systems: Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Technical College System; and the University of Wisconsin System.
- Opened floor to any comments, questions, or concerns from Council members:
 - o J. Edgar suggested additions to points in the report regarding old paradigms about agricultural and the need to dispel myths. Examples of such myths added to the report.
- Council members from educational institutions and systems provided a high-level overview of the reviews they conducted and were included in the report:
 - o Department of Public Instruction, Sharon Wendt – format and information provided mirrors information provided in 2015. Updates to course and FFA enrollment.
 - o Wisconsin Technical College System, Betsy Leonard – included updated information like DPI, and information about some of the changes WTCS has seen in agricultural education since the 2015 report. Includes information on diversity and equity in programs.
 - o University of Wisconsin System – Kevin Berhardt provided the review for the report but was unable to attend the meeting. Review information includes updates since the 2015 report. Review highlights increases and decreases in enrollment across different agriculture-related degree programs and job placement rates.

a. Identify Structure Recommendations

- J. Cole reviewed draft language in report regarding maintenance of Council and its purposes and structure.
 - o J. Edgar moved to approve recommendation that the Council remain in place with its current structure, G. Besaw seconded. Approved unanimously.
- J. Cole reviewed draft language to carry out the functions as defined by Wis. Stats. [s. 106.40\(2\)](#).
 - o E. Huschitt moved to approve recommendation that the Council continue to carry out its functions as defined in state statute, S. Wendt seconded. Approved unanimously.

b. Identify Additional Recommendations or Dissents

- J. Cole reviewed draft language in report that the Council's SFY2020 Annual Report was distributed electronically to all Council members, who were asked to review the Annual Report, provide input, and approve or oppose the Annual Report. No dissent or minority opinions were received. Rep. Tauchen moved to approve the report as discussed and amended during the meeting, G. Besaw seconded. The Annual Report was approved unanimously.

5. Review of Action Items

- J. Cole reviewed the action items determined through the course of meeting business:
 - o J. Cole will revise report to include one point of amended language and adopt the approvals of the Council to continue the Council with its current structure and purpose, as well as the approval of the report.
 - o J. Cole will prepare the report for distribution and submit the report on behalf of Sec. Pechacek and the Council to the Governor, Legislature, and stakeholders identified in statute.

6. Wrap-up

- Chair Schoenborn noted the next Council meeting: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 2 p.m. Meeting will be held virtually.

7. Adjourn

- G. Besaw moved to adjourn, Rep. Tauchen seconded. Council adjourned at 2:42 p.m.