

Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Webex

Council Members present:

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

*Excused

Staff present: Jenifer Cole, DWD; Mitchell Muller, Rep. Oldenburg's Office (*designee for the Representative);

Public present: None

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Schoenborn called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Attendance noted above.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes

June 23, 2021 & September 17, 2021 – Sec. Pechacek moved to approve, J. Rosenow seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

4. Updates and Council-Relevant Items of Interest

- a. J. Cole reminded the Council about partnership between DWD and WEDC to roll out \$100 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds through the [DWD/WEDC Workforce Innovation Grant Program](#). Program provides up to \$10 million each to regional workforce development collaborations that will design and implement innovative plans to help address workforce challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b. 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 argi-business. [Updates to Existing Business Policy](#)
Sec. Romanski shared his appreciation to the DWD/DVR team for making these updates to make services more available.
- c. Sec. Romanski provided an update about the Farm Support program. Another \$50 million made available to make direct payments to farmers with remaining supply chain issues. Working with Department of Revenue on the delivery mechanism.
- d. Chair Schoenborn took a moment to congratulate Sec. Romanski on his confirmation.

5. Council Goals – Next steps: Workgroups and Leads

Chair Schoenborn outlined the purpose and format of the Council creating small sub-workgroups to brainstorm and develop ideas to implement the three goals the Council has established. Asked that the small groups become established and meet before the next full Council meeting in 2022.

- a. Council members are to reflect on the goals and identify which goal they would like to work.
- b. J. Cole will work members to determine the composition of the small sub-groups.
- c. Reminder of the goals:
 - i. Goal 1: Support agricultural education instructors and find effective ways to reach every student to highlight the opportunities available in agriculture in a positive, purposeful way.
 - ii. Goal 2: Partner with DPI to embrace and promote the development of a statewide agriculture pathway.
 - iii. Goal 3: Research current trends, evaluate established perspectives, and develop a branding, marketing, and public outreach plan for careers in agriculture.

6. Discuss Possible Council Bylaws

J. Cole brought the idea of establishing Council bylaws for consideration by the members. Bylaws are not statutorily required, but would be a best practice, especially if the Council moves forward with establishing documented subcommittees and establish more structure.

- a. Chair Schoenborn asked about examples of bylaws of other Councils and recommended that this is taken up by the Executive Committee to prepare and bring to the Council for review and approval.
- b. J. Cole will research examples and work with the Executive Committee on preparing considerations.

7. 2022 Meeting Schedule

Members discussed preferred meeting frequency and days/times. Consensus was reached that the Council will meet quarterly on a Wednesday after 2:00 pm. June is a difficult month for most members.

- a. J. Cole will look at possible dates within those parameters and poll members about dates in February, May, August, and November to find what works best for a majority.

8. Discuss Possible Presenters or Presentation Topics

Members suggested the following topics:

- Ag ed programming in the tech college and university systems
- Data and needs connected to career pathways – DPI Consultant, Sally Ladsten
- Where are the greatest needs in agriculture as determined by labor market information
- Industry representatives discuss what skills are needed and what roles they are having a hard time filling
- Ag ed programming and offerings in the Tribal colleges
- Development of ag ed teacher workforce to address retirements
- Discuss ways to expand and improve certification options for high school students preparing for ag careers and incentive funding
- Arborists – Randy Kraus, August Hoppy
- Immigration and agricultural, non-traditional students, connect with Migrant Labor Council

9. Wrap-up

J. Edgar mentioned proposed legislation: AB 314/SB 325 - relating to promotion of agricultural product. Asked Sec. Romanski to comment on the bills. Sec. Romanski shared that DATCP was before the Joint Committee on Finance on 10/19/2021. It is an initiative on promotion of agricultural exports. The bill is

broad and does not have specificity about the types of products covered so that many industries can be supported.

10. Adjourn

G. Besaw moved to adjourn, B. Leonard seconded. Council adjourned at 3:00 p.m.