

## **Dairy Innovation Hub Advisory Council**

**November 16, 2020**

Meeting minutes

Participants: Mitch Breunig, Aric Dieter, Dale Gallenberg, Steve Kelm, Shelly Mayer, Tera Montgomery, Rami Reddy, John Umhoefer, Kate VandenBosch, Wayne Weber, Kent Weigel, Heather White, Maria Woldt, Ashley Andre (DATCP). Special guests Bradley Bolling and John Lucey for the last 20 minutes of the meeting

Proxy: Randy Romanski for Angela James (DATCP)

Absent: Dave Daniels, Scott Rankin, Angela James

WebEx webinar

Mitch Breunig called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes: (8.18.20 meeting) A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Tera Montgomery, Rami Reddy seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.**

Mitch provided the meeting overview and welcomed everyone.

**Council member updates:** Beginning with Randy from DATCP, each council member provided an update on their work since the last meeting in August. All agreed that COVID-19 spikes, shutdowns, cancelations and other considerations have changed the course of their work, but all were also optimistic about the future.

**Nominations for Advisory Council:** There were three seats up for nomination because the terms were staggered when the Hub was first initiated to make sure that every year there was a portion of the council up for nomination, versus all at once. The DBA, DATCP and UW-Madison seats were up for nomination.

Each representing group was given the opportunity to nominate someone, all chose to put forth the current member as their nominee (Dieter – DBA, Rankin – UW-Madison and James – DATCP).

**Shelly Mayer moved to reappoint all three nominees, and for all terms to start on Jan.1. Tera Montgomery seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

There was discussion about expanding the Council through one or more “At-large” positions to include other stakeholder groups or individuals who may want to get involved. Overall, the council was not in favor of expanding and other ways to get involved were highlighted such as campus steering committees, RFP’s, communication efforts etc. The issue will be brought back up in 12 months to determine if adjustments are needed.

**Proxies for council members:** Randy Romanski asked the council to consider allowing proxies for meetings where a council member is not available. Especially for an agency like DATCP and potentially other stakeholder groups, COVID has created many additional responsibilities for staff members, and

even though they cannot attend, they are actively engaged and would like to be represented. By definition, a proxy can vote as needed.

**John Umhoefer moved to allow proxies at each advisory council meeting with prior notice to Hub staff, starting retroactively with Randy Romanski for the 11-16 meeting. Rami Reddy seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.**

**Campus updates:** The three deans provided an update from their campus on Hub activities as well as overall operations, budget issues and campus instruction. Each campus' response to COVID testing was also included in their comments.

Related to the Hub, the following updates were given:

Madison:

- Activities to date:
  - Postdoctoral fellows (13 submitted, 6 funded)
  - Capacity-building equipment (10 submitted, 7 funded)
  - Short-term, high-impact projects (19 submitted, 7 funded)
  - Developed PVL's for four faculty positions, hoping to post soon
  - Call for graduate student assistantships (4 funded)
  - Call for collaborative graduate student assistantships with UW-River Falls and UW-Platteville (2 funded)
  - Planning for 2021 funding opportunities.

Platteville

- Activities to date:
  - Facility and infrastructure upgrades at Pioneer Farm for research and Hub collaborations
  - Hired two faculty scientists: Ruminant nutrition and ag agricultural and biosystems engineer
  - Seven faculty research fellowships awarded
  - Five awards for supplies and equipment proposals
  - Developing research scientist and support staff positions in agro-ecosystems and dairy herd management
  - Collaborative graduate student assistantship
  - Planning for 2021 RFP's

River Falls

- Activities to date:
  - Six faculty research fellowships awarded
  - Call for supplies and equipment proposals: 8 in FY20, 5 in FY21
  - Hired dairy herd research manager
  - Developing four faculty positions
  - Animal welfare, food technology applications under review
  - Capital improvements to lab farm
  - Planning 2021 RFPs

A few questions were asked pertaining to how online finals will be held.

**Administrative update:** Heather White provided an update of the organizational progress made by the Hub since the last meeting. Highlights include:

- Annual report
- Communication with stakeholders and trade associations
- Budget planning
- Organizational progress

The funding and progress timeline were reviewed from concept to present.

**Dairy Summit:** Maria Woldt provided an update on the Dairy Summit. The Dairy Summit will be held on November 18 in a virtual format. The event will be free and open to the public. UW-Platteville will be the virtual host and it will be a mixture of large group, breakout and research presentations. There will also be a virtual farm tour of the Pioneer Farm.

Maria talked about the schedule and that registration was live on the Dairy Innovation Hub website.

There were almost 300 registrants for the Summit.

**Special guests:** Bradley Bolling from UW-Madison's department of Food Science and John Lucey from the Center for Dairy Research were special guests for the meeting. They are collaborating on a project partially funded by the Hub about the antihypertensive properties of cheese.

Their respective roles in the project were discussed, how they are leveraging other funding and talent sources and other collaborators that are involved in the project. Rodrigo Ibanez Alfaro from the Center for Dairy Research is also a collaborator on the project and will be presenting at the Dairy Summit.

**Future meetings:** The advisory council previously agreed to meet quarterly, and they would like to continue that frequency. The next meeting will be Jan. 22 via WebEx. Meetings dates were discussed for April. Maria will send a calendar invite for Monday, April 26 at 10 a.m. for the Q2 meeting.

**Shelly Mayer made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Kent Weigel seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:02 p.m.**