

Dairy Innovation Hub Advisory Council

August 16, 2021

Meeting minutes

Participants: Mitch Breunig, Dale Gallenberg, Steve Kelm, Tera Montgomery, Rami Reddy, John Umhoefer, Kate VandenBosch, Wayne Weber, Kent Weigel, Heather White, Maria Woldt, Angela James, Scott Rankin. Chad Zuleger – proxy for Aric Dieter, Karen Gefvert – proxy for Dave Daniels. Special guests: Joao Dorea, Mark Stephenson, Paul Mitchell and Chuck Nicholson

Absent: Aric Dieter, Shelly Mayer, Dave Daniels

In person at UW-Platteville – Baraboo Sauk County and Zoom

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

Approval of Minutes: (4.26.21 meeting) A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Scott Rankin, Angela James seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

Mitch provided the meeting overview and welcomed everyone.

Council member updates: Beginning with John Umhoefer from WCMA, each council member provided an update on their work since the last meeting in April. All mentioned topics like staffing during COVID and returning to work, planning for fall events (in-person and virtual) and protecting the food supply chain as major issues of concern and energy.

University reps shared insight and timelines for starting classes in September and enrollment numbers. All campuses recently made funding decisions for FY 22 Hub projects.

Upcoming events:

Maria explained three upcoming events in November.

Virtual Dairy Summit – Nov. 17: 10 am – 3 p.m. Similar format to last year. Will feature the most recently funded Hub research. Intended to be high level, aspirational. Talks will be formatted for a lay audience. Talk about some data points, but mostly present the idea.

Reception and tours – Nov. 17: Tours at 3:30, Reception from 4-6 p.m. This will be an invite only aspect of the week. Featuring the best Wisconsin cheeses, wines, beers and spirits AND best dairy researchers with a poster session (PI/Co-PI or trainees). Dean Kate gives a short welcome and update, then attendees mingle, eat appetizers, and have cocktails, browse posters. Aimed at stakeholders, special guests, and legislators.

Dairy Innovation Symposium – Nov. 18: Reg opens at 8 a.m., sessions at 9 a.m., adjourn at 4 p.m. This is a new event that will feature the Hub's most advanced projects from FY 20 and 21. The emphasis will be on the science and audience would be academic – but appealing to farmers, processors etc. who enjoy digging deeper into the science of relevant topics to their business. This event is in person at Union South in Varsity Hall, but also available as a live and on demand virtual event. Sessions will be archived on the Hub's website and available for use.

Registration information for all events will be emailed and holds placed on calendars

Annual report: A draft of the annual report was circulated to the group. This is a very early draft of the document and emphasis was placed on content that might be missing or could be positioned better. Copy editing and final photo selection/design will come later. The deadline to provide feedback is Sept.1. Our internal deadline is Sept. 15 for an October 1 send to UW-System. There will be a select number of reports printed.

Special guest: Joao Dorea, Animal and Dairy Sciences. Dr. Dorea is an assistant professor of precision agriculture & data analytics at UW-Madison. He gave a talk about his Hub-funded research that focuses on using computer vision systems to improve animal health and welfare in transition dairy cows. His research seeks to create algorithms from computer vision system to assess body condition scores in real-time to precisely detect changes in body condition. Early and precise detection of metabolic disorders will allow for better animal welfare, money savings, earlier treatment, and other management scenarios.

Discussion: *What are the most pressing animal health and welfare topics in everyone's mind?* The group talked about important topics related to the presentation the Dr. Dorea gave as well as other topics they are seeing in their work. Things like public perception of dairy, the allure of non-dairy products and beverages, lab created meat etc. Were brought up. Topics like cow-calf separation were discussed. There are research projects funded by the Hub that are addressing some of these concerns. Animal welfare and sustainability are the most pressing issues for processors.

Administrative update: Heather highlighted the FY 21 budget overview. For all three campuses combined, a total of \$7,789,668 is spent or committed for faculty salary, other personnel, supplies and services, equipment, travel, other and the fringe pool.

Heather highlighted some of the outcomes of the Hub to date such as, nearly 100 funding awards through the RFP process, 10 faculty searches plus support staff and significant gains in equipment at each university to help conduct dairy related research.

An informational sheet was included in the meeting packet that was developed for public and non-ag audiences. This handout is available on our website for download and sharing.

Finally, Heather shared that each new faculty member at River Falls and Platteville has the chance to pursue "L/I" status. As part of their partnership in the Dairy Innovation Hub UW–Madison, CALS; UW–Platteville, BILSA; and UW–River Falls, CAFES have an agreement for faculty with research appointments funded by the Hub at each partner institution to join a collaborative cohort of colleagues who routinely work together on research, teaching, and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students. There are certain benefits associated with this status that will help these new faculty members to be successful in their roles like software, select facilities, course collaboration and the ability to formally mentor graduate students.

Campus updates: The three deans provided an update from their campus on Hub activities as well as overall operations, budget issues and campus instruction for fall 2021. Each campus' response to

masking, vaccines and COVID testing was also included in their comments. Each Dean reiterated enrollment numbers for the fall, facilities upgrades at each campus.

Related to the Hub, the following updates were given:

Madison:

- Four faculty positions recruited
 - Dairy economics – Chuck Nicholson, Jan. start
 - Rumen microbial physiology
 - Human health and nutrition – Joe Pierre, Oct. start
 - Land and water stewardship
- Seven awards for capacity building equipment
- Thirteen awards for short-term, high-impact projects
- RFP for postdoctoral research fellowships
- Hired accountant to support entire Hub

Platteville:

- Faculty search completed
 - Dairy food science and management
 - Zifan Wan, Aug. start date
- Eight awards for equipment and supplies
- Six awards for DI3 Fellows
- Pioneer Farm robot project

River Falls:

- Recently completed faculty searches for August start date
 - Animal welfare - Kate Creutzinger
 - Food technology – Grace Lewis
 - Community economic development - Luis Peña-Lévano
- Nine awards for equipment and renovations
- Four awards for faculty fellowships

Special guest: Chuck Nicolson, Agricultural and Applied Economics: Dr. Nicholson is an associate professor of dairy economics at UW-Madison. His position is funded by the Hub. He starts fully in January but is already doing some work with the department on research and undergraduate program evaluations. Mark Stephenson and Paul Mitchell were also at the meeting as special guests because they have been collaborating with him. Chuck gave an overview of the groups that he has worked with and the areas that he has specialized in. Supply chain is his main area of expertise.

Discussion: *What are the most pressing federal and state economic issues on your mind?* There was discussion about this topics and issues such as dairy exports, milk hauling, negative PPD's and entrepreneurship were brought up. There was also interest in researching the Hub concept itself to see if it is viable on the national or even international level.

Future meetings: The advisory council previously agreed to meet quarterly, and they would like to continue that frequency. The next meeting will be November 15 in person and virtual, location TBD. Future meeting dates were talked about but need to be altered due to other meetings.

Scott Rankin made the motion to adjourn the meeting. John Umhoefer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:40 p.m.