

**Dairy Innovation Hub Advisory Council**  
**January 23, 2023**  
Meeting minutes

Notes by Elisabeth Berndt

Participants: Heather White (DIH), Maria Woldt (DIH), Elisabeth Berndt (DIH), Steve Kelm (UW-River Falls), Tera Montgomery (UW-Platteville), Chuck Steiner (UW-Platteville), Chuck Nicholson (UW-Madison), Dean Olson (UW-River Falls), Scott Rankin (UW-Madison), Larry Baumann (UW-River Falls), Shelley Mayer (PDPW), Dave Daniels (WFBF), Randy Romanski (DATCP), Mitch Breunig (PDPW)

Proxy Participants: None

Absent: Glenda Gillaspay (UW-Madison), John Umhoefer (WCMA), Aric Dieter (DBA)

Virtual Zoom meeting for all. Mitch Breunig chaired the meeting.

Mitch called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes: (11.15.22 meeting) A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Scott Rankin, Dave Daniels seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.**

Mitch provided the meeting overview and welcomed everyone.

**Council member updates:** Each council member provided a working update from their areas/departments since the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**University reps:** The spring semester has begun on all three campuses. Steve Kelm and Tera Montgomery both shared that RFPs for faculty fellowships and equipment are currently open at UW-River Falls & UW-Platteville. Both campuses are in process of hiring Hub funded faculty positions: dairy science and management at UW-RF & agricultural business at UW-P.

Scott Rankin shared that he recently completed a Batch Freezer Workshop short course.

New council members serving as university reps were introduced: Larry Baumann, professor at UW-River Falls with expertise in animal health and dairy reproduction and Chuck Nicholson, associate professor at UW-Madison with a background in dairy economics with an emphasis on supply chain.

**Industry/association representatives:** Shelley Mayer summarized the 2023 PDPW Managers Academy for Dairy Professionals in Savannah, GA in which 70 people attended and issues of supply chain and lack of employees in the workforce were addressed.

Upcoming conference planning makes for a busy winter/spring. Cornerstone leadership program applications are due on January 31<sup>st</sup>. A new director of development has been hired.

On the farming side, Mitch Breunig commented that construction projects have been delayed due to cold weather.

**WFBF:** Dave Daniels shared that a “stewards of the land” email campaign has been developed to help show how farmers are helping the environment. He also mentioned that WFBF recently hires a new COO and executive director for government relations.

Farmers are trying to keep cows warm and fed during the winter months; cows are doing well.

**DATCP:** Randy Romanski reported high, favorable analytics for ag exports, especially dairy, in 2022. Several organizations/associations in the dairy industry received ag export grants continue to develop platforms for international trade. Dairy processor and nitrogen optimization grant opportunities are still available; applications for both close January 30<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the cover crop rebate program is accepting applications on a first come, first served basis.

Humane Handling Institute (HHI) at UW-River Falls is developing curriculum for high school students interested in a career in meat processing. Similar programs are being explored at UW-Madison and UW-Platteville.

DATCP continues to use DIH as a template and model for new programs and talent development.

**Campus updates:** Campus leaders provided updates from their campus on Hub activities as well as overall operations.

**Madison (Faculty Director, Heather White):** In addition to the updates below, Heather (representing Glenda Gillaspay) expressed Dean Gillaspay’s enthusiastic involvement and engagement with Hub procedures.

- Recently awarded 19 capital equipment grants that build capacity with novel ideas spanning multiple areas
- Eight new faculty hired (Lautaro Rostoll Cangiano, Michaela Hoffelmeyer, Margaret Kalcic, Hilario Mantovani, Charles Nicholson, Joseph Pierre, Gulustan Ozturk, Xia Zhu-Barker)
  - Stakeholder discussion in Madison on Feb. 1 for Michaela Hoffelmeyer
  - Lautaro will start this spring
- Planning for round 3 faculty hiring, anticipating four positions
  - Established timeline and process, proposals will be submitted for review and rank
  - Campus brainstorming session held Jan. 17 well attended with great representation and involvement across CALS community
  - Critical gaps reviewed externally and internally
- Call for postdoctoral researchers opens this spring
- Planning for Dairy Symposium, May 18
  - Academician focused
  - In-depth, advanced detailed reporting and content

**Platteville (Interim Dean, Chuck Steiner):** In addition to the following updates, Chuck thanked everyone on the council for their time and input as UW-Platteville continues to build capacity because of Hub efforts. The national search for a chancellor continues as the search and screen committee has started the review process and hope to select a candidate late spring.

- Call for DI3 faculty fellowships anticipating many collaborations, due in March

- Dairy Plant project, fundraising efforts going well
- Three faculty (Ryan Pralle, Joseph Sanford, Zifan Wan) and one teaching postdoc hired (Risper Nyairo)
- Exploring data science postdoc position
- Developing agribusiness faculty position
  - Several faculty and staff in the agribusiness program have taken on leadership and administrative roles in BILSA and at the campus level.
  - As these leadership roles are permanently filled, they are in a holding pattern to see what expertise gaps in dairy need to be filled that fits Hub and UW-P needs
- Planning for Dairy Summit on Nov. 14 going well

**River Falls (Interim Dean, Dean Olson):** In addition to the remarks indicated below, Dean Olson reported that Dr. Michael Orth will begin his CAFES deanship in early June. The college is looking forward to his leadership and experience in animal science.

Research and special initiative success and funding continues to flow on campus. Dr. Kate Creutzinger recently received two USDA research grants totaling \$600K. Dr. Kurt Vogel received funding for HHI, and the Mann Valley Farm lab staff was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Excellence.

The area of food science is in the early stages of developing fermentation science in animal nutrition.

- Call for faculty fellowships, due in Feb.
- Call for equipment, due in Feb.
- Dairy pilot plant project moves forward with secured funding, supply chain issues halt production
- Five new faculty hired (Kate Creutzinger, Grace Lewis, Luis Pena-Levano, Susanne Wiesner, Bahar Hassanpour)
- Recruiting assistant professor in dairy health and management, applications due Feb. 26

**Administrative updates:** Heather and Maria provided an overview of Hub progress and event recaps since the last meeting.

**Presentation to the Board of Regents (BOR) in December:** DIH received a warm welcome at the December BOR meeting. It had been three years since the last presentation. Hub updates were delivered firsthand by featured end users of the funding source: the first Hub funded graduate student, a Hub funded faculty member, a dairy processor, and a WI dairy farmer. BOR members were very engaged with unanimous support of the Hub.

**Outcomes reporting:** Collecting data on roughly 150 awards across all three campuses is wrapping up for the first half of FY 23. A survey link is sent to PIs twice a year with specific questions related to the funding. This mechanism also serves to keep in contact with PIs and highlight research topics and the researchers. Information is used in annual report to show return on investment to WI taxpayers.

**Dairy Summit recap:** Analytics for the event were provided and discussed. The "live" online numbers are dropping, but the "on-demand" view rates are growing; event will remain a hybrid-live delivery.

**Dairy Symposium, May 18 in Madison:** This will be the second time offering the event since fall 2021. Symposium and Summit events were separated due to different audiences and content focus. A request for proposals will be open for researchers to apply to be speakers, poster presenters or both, in addition to the required PIs. The event should be well attended by faculty since classes will be over for the semester and nine-month contracts include the month of May.

**Hub upcoming events:** Maria provided an overview on the following events.

**Posters on the rotunda** – April 19, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in Madison

Information research posters will be displayed in the State Capitol rotunda.

**Dairy Symposium** – May 18, 2023, Madison

The event will be in-person and fully virtual in the Pyle Center at UW-Madison featuring advanced stage research. Event is formatted for an academic audience. Alison Van Eenennaam from UC-Davis will deliver the keynote address.

**Advisory council membership:** Heather provided an overview for the seats up for nomination, as indicated below. Criteria for openings are in meeting packet and in the guiding principles. The rotating on/off attendees were invited to join the meeting to represent their organization(s).

**Rotating industry:** Mitch Breunig held this spot for DBA. The spot now rotates to PDPW. Mitch was selected by PDPW to fill the slot.

**WCMA:** John Umhoefer is eligible for a second term.

**Rotating UW:** The current spot is held by Rami Reddy (UW-Platteville) The next spot will rotate to Larry Baumann from UW-River Falls.

**UW-Madison:** Chuck Nicholson is replacing Kent Weigel.

**Selecting an advisory council chair:** Heather began discussion for Mitch Breunig's replacement as his term is up. The replacement cannot be a university representative.

Prior to opening the floor for nominations, Mitch thanked everyone for the opportunity to lead the DIH Advisory Council.

Shelley Mayer nominated Dave Daniels because he can relate to the community with a farmer focus and is an excellent communicator. Dave Daniels accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

**Motion to elect advisory council chair: A motion to elect Dave Daniels as the new DIH advisory council chair was made by Shelley Mayer. Scott Rankin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Dave Daniels was elected the new DI advisory council chair and will lead the next meeting.**

**In place of a discussion topic, the following special guest speakers shared about themselves, their research, and their passion to live and work in Wisconsin.**

**Bahar Hassanpour:** Assistant professor specializing in agriculture water management in the Department of Plant and Earth Science at UW-River Falls.

**Gulustan Ozturk:** Assistant professor in the Department of Food Science at UW-Madison exploring bioactive milk components.

**Susanne Wiesner:** Assistant professor researching atmospheric science and climate resiliency in the Department of Plant and Earth Science at UW-River Falls.

**Xia Zhu-Barker:** Assistant professor in the Department of Soil Science at UW-Madison focusing on land and water stewardship.

**Motion to adjourn the meeting: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Scott Rankin. Randy Romanski seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:46 a.m.**

**Future meetings:** The next meeting is Wed. April 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., WFBF, Madison. The remaining 2023 meeting dates are Mon. Aug. 14 in-person, location TBD and Tues. Nov. 14 in-person, Platteville.