

Dairy Innovation Hub Advisory Council

January 22, 2021

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, Angela James, Dave Daniels, Scott Rankin. Special guests Patrick Woolcock and Andrea Clark for the last 20 minutes of the meeting

Absent: None

WebEx webinar

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

Approval of Minutes: (11.16.20 meeting) A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Scott Rankin, Tera Montgomery seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

Mitch provided the meeting overview and welcomed everyone.

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

University reps sharing insight and timelines for starting classes the week on Jan 25 as well as upcoming calls for proposals.

Dairy Summit: Maria created a recap document and an idea document that was as part of the advisory council packet. The council was asked to provide feedback. All agreed the event went well for the first year and are excited for the future.

The 2021 event was discussed. Everyone agreed that if there is an in-person component (and even if there isn't), UW-Madison would be the host. UW-River Falls will host the event in 2022. If we are allowed to have an in-person component to the event, it would most likely be limited in capacity (25-50 people), include a cocktail hour, heavy apps, some poster sessions from researchers and possibly a welcome from the Chancellor or the Vice Chancellor for Research. Maria will research a few venues at UW-Madison, but a contract will likely not be able to be signed until there is more clarity on campus reopening for events.

The date of November 17 is saved on our tech provider's schedule, Maria has contacted UW-Madison Chancellor/VC for Research to get on schedules.

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 spring and fall 2021. Each campus' response to COVID testing was also included in their comments. Dean Kate talked about UW-Madison's COVID phone app, required testing and building access for students and staff. Dean Wayne talked about

the Pioneer Pause days which will replace Spring Break and align with campus furlough days. Dean Dale talked about River Falls' focus on student engagement when in-person interactions are limited. Engagement is linked to retention, which is linked to graduation and to employment and so on. This is particularly important in dairy and agriculture. All three campuses expect to be fully in-person by fall of 2021 provided that the spring and summer vaccination and testing plans follow through.

Related to the Hub, the following updates were given:

Madison:

- Current activities:
 - Four faculty positions posted – *due March 15*
 - RFP for capacity building equipment proposals – *due Feb. 4*
 - RFP for short-term, high-impact – *due March 4*
 - 50% Accountant hiring in progress

Platteville

- Current activities:
 - Assistant/associate professor – Dairy food science and management – *due March 1*
 - RFP for equipment and supplies
 - RFP for DI3 Fellows
 - Pioneer Farm robot project

River Falls

- Current activities:
 - Two recently completed faculty searches
 - Animal welfare
 - Food technology
 - Assistant professor – Agricultural business – *due Feb. 7*
 - RFP for equipment and renovations – *due Feb. 19*
 - RFP for faculty fellowships – *due Feb. 19*

Administrative update: Heather highlighted the faculty positions that have been hired or are in the process of hiring right now and mapped them to the priority areas that they follow.

There was discussion about how these positions will be interviewed and onboarded (virtual, with some in person), how they will collaborate with the three campuses and how duplication will be avoided. Heather asked the group to think about subject areas for the next rounds of faculty hires and to share them as appropriate.

John Umhoefer commented that there is interest from WCMA and the cheese/processing community to see more dairy product focused training. This could be in the form of a major, certificate or courses. Perhaps the Hub could be a resource to this end. Dean Kate and the other deans talked about the process of creating new programs.

Dairy Taskforce 2.0 discussion: Mitch gave an overview of the original intent of the Dairy Task Force 2.0 as it relates to the Hub. The council packet contained a document that mapped all funded projects to DTF 2.0 recommendations when appropriate and highlighted areas of “general agreement” where a Hub project could map to general areas of importance for a DTF 2.0 Sub Committee, but not to a specific recommendation. This showed some areas of overlap as well as some areas that could be addressed in the future. Mitch encouraged everyone to think about the gap areas and to discuss how the Hub might be able to help. Angela James pointed out that DATCP maintains a dashboard to show progress on the recommendations and that they will use the Hub document to make updates where appropriate. Some of the recommendations that map to several projects are:

- #45: Emphasis on value-added and specialty cheese in Wisconsin
- #47: Need for regulatory certainty and consistency
- #26: Increased collaboration in the UW System and with private industry
- #5: Understand the impact of dairy and agriculture on local communities
- *Many projects reflect general area of importance, but not specific recommendation (ex. Manure technology, water quality)*

#37 and #46 were examples that will clearly align with new faculty hires once they are made. Hiring new faculty in areas where gaps exist will be a way to ensure that more of the DTF 2.0 recommendations are being addressed in the future.

Special guests: Two guests from UW-River Falls presented at the meeting. Patrick Woolcock, assistant professor in ag engineering technology, talked about his Hub-funded work with compost and bio char and the Mann Valley Farm. He talked about the process, what equipment is used and how the end product is a revenue stream for the farm.

Andrea Clark is the dairy research specialist at the Mann Valley farm and her role is to assist faculty members with their on-farm experiments. Right now, she is working with Sylvia Kehoe and Patrick Woolcock on their work and she will be working with others in the future. She talked about four projects and her involvement in collecting daily data and some early findings from each project.

Future meetings: The advisory council previously agreed to meet quarterly, and they would like to continue that frequency. The next meeting will be April 26 using Zoom. Two future dates were proposed – August 16 and November 15 as possible future dates for meetings.

Tera Montgomery made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Kelm seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:30 p.m.