

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, March 18, 2010
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Susan Locke, Nancy Barker, John Reinert, and Paul Eisen
UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Nick Schneider, Catherine Neiswender, and René Mehlberg
Others Present: Jeff Decker.

Meeting called to order at 9:00a.m. by Chair Tom Widener.

Comments from the Public related to items on the Agenda: None

Motion to approve February 18, 2010 meeting minutes by Reinert/Locke. Motion carried 5-0 .

Program Report:

Community Resource Development, Catherine Neiswender: Reported on the Working Lands workshop; it's the new farm preservation law that passed last year that affects zoning. Comments were mixed about understanding the program due to its complexity. Neiswender has been working on the upcoming Sustainable Communities Public Policy Forum that will be at UW Fox Valley. Round table discussions were held around the state to bring input that will go into the discussion at the conference. Neiswender also shared her organizational development work with Lakeland Care District, a model being shared for long-term care approach. Co-facilitated the planning process for the board of directors with a Fond du Lac UW-Extension staff member.

Widener requested that sustainability be on the April Meeting agenda.

Community Gardens, Nick Schneider and Jeff Decker: Schneider introduced Decker who is working with the city of Oshkosh on community gardens. Decker shared some information about community gardens throughout the state. Decker is a Sherman Road gardener and talked about his experiences there. Decker is asking the UW-Extension Committee to be a supporter of the garden. Have permission of the Bill Stern City Forrester, to have another 5 acres for a community garden near Riverside Cemetery.

Motion by Barker/Locke for the committee to be a Garden Partner. Motion carried 3-2(Widener/Reinert).

Committee discussed need for a County Board Resolution regarding this partnership. Kniep will check with Corporation Counsel regarding a resolution.

Family Living Education, Chris Kniep: Kniep shared about her role as the chair of the Chancellor Search and Screen committee. She also reported on the UW-Extension State Department Head meeting, which Mark Harris served on a panel during. Kniep shared a handout that went to Harris on the Linking UWEX Resources to County Departments. It documents the support UWEX gives to other county departments. Harris encouraged Extension educators to increase visibility with county board members via committees.

Kniep also shared the new UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension Purpose, Vision, and Values statements.

Winnebago County Board Scholarship Program – René Mehlberg: As reported last month, materials have been sent to the appropriate schools, the Oshkosh Community Foundation to post on their Winnebago County Scholarship site, and materials are posted on the main Winnebago County webpage and the UW-Extension webpage. One application has been received to date.

Committee Chair Report – Tom Widener: Library Allocation: Allocation given out by the county is based on circulation, yet there are questions of if other factors should be used to base allocation on.

UW-Fox Valley Update – Tom Widener: Widener led a discussion on drafting a resolution for upgrading "engineering" building. Renovation of the building is necessary to support existing and future engineering programs, run jointly by UW-Fox Valley and UW-Platteville. The resolution would be for an engineering study

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in 2010 so appropriations could be spent in 2011. The resolution would also require equal contribution by Outagamie County.

Motion to move forward a resolution to do the engineering study in 2010 by Widener/Barker. Motion carried 5-0. App

Collective Bargaining for Wisconsin University System: Widener has read that the faculties of UW-Eau Claire & UW-Superior want to unionize.

UW-Extension – Administration, Chris Kniep:

2010 Budget to date: Shared 2010 budget-to-date with not a lot of expenditures. Suggestion to create a subcategory under supplies and equipment for state salary and fringes.

UWEX Staff/Office Updates: Kniep passed out a letter to the supervisors from Chancellor Wilson thanking them for their kind words and their support of UW-Extension.

Kniep announced that Schneider or Mehlberg will be going to the district WACEC meeting on May 7 in Manitowoc. Kniep will be going to the State WACEC meeting June 22-23, 2010 in Milwaukee. The van has been reserved for both events.

Kniep answered questions about the furlough days.

Schneider's tenure document made it through Faculty Tenure Advisory Committee and is one step closer to achieving tenure.

Comments by Committee Members: Eisen reported on a library training he attended.

Next meeting is Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 9:00a.m.

Meeting adjourned by Locke/Barker at 10:46a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:
René L. Mehlberg, Recording Secretary