

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

Members Present: Tom Widener, Susan Locke, Nancy Barker, and Guy Hegg

Member Absent: John Reinert

UW-Extension Staff: Nick Schneider, Catherine Neiswender, Dan Teuteberg, Darlene Kramer, Kris Soper, Kristi Cutts, René Mehlberg and Melody Piper

Others Present: Christine Grosse, UW-Green Bay Dietetic Intern.

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

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

Motion to approve September 16, 2010 meeting minutes by Nancy Barker, seconded by Tom Widener. Motion carried 4-0.

Reports: 4-H Youth Development – René Mehlberg: Gave an overview of the Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development program that includes the work of Mehlberg and Teuteberg. Mehlberg then highlighted three educational programs: 1) 4-H Family Mentoring – There are 11 people from 7 clubs trained to help first year members/families in their 4-H clubs. Initial mentor training was held in September and mentors will soon learn the names of the new families in their clubs. 2) 4-H Club Visits – Mehlberg shared the “Shake, Rattle, and Roll” resource that has a variety of educationally fun activities for 4-H clubs to do for recreation and team building. Mehlberg is visiting 4-H clubs and sharing at least one activity from the packet with them. 3) 4-H Winter Leadership Camp – Mehlberg gave an overview on the district 4-H Winter Leadership Camp that she helped start back in 2003 and that Teuteberg currently works with. The 4-H Winter Leadership Camp was nationally recognized as one of four MetLife Foundation Awards of Excellence, exhibiting excellence in citizenship programming in an Afterschool/out-of-school environment.

Agriculture – Nick Schneider: Spoke on the Master Gardeners program explaining there are currently 78 active members with 28 people went through this year’s training course. The course consists of 12 sessions, 3 hours each. The members are asked to commit to 24 volunteer hours to the association. This can be any where from youth education, community education, answering phone call on the plant hot line. Some of the members work at the local Farmers Market in Oshkosh, and maintaining the Waukau Trail.

Nick explained the Master Gardeners do their own fund raising. The current Master Gardner newsletter was given to each committee member.

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program – Darlene Kramer: Introduced Christine Grosse, a UW-Green Bay Dietetic Intern, who has been interning for the last month with WNEP. Darlene handed out the year end narrative report. WNEP year runs from October 1 to September 30.

Kris Soper spoke on the Master Food Preserver class she had taken this summer and is now using this information to teach this topic at the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. Kris explained that many of the clients at the pantry have the opportunity to take as much fruits and vegetables but many are not aware of how to preserve them for later. Kris shared one of the salsa recipes the class made.

Kristi shared with the committee information on the Master Food Preserver class, how those who have taken the class volunteer back in the community, and how Channel 10 Access television does a program from the series “So Easy to Preserve”.

Committee Chair Report, Tom Widener:

UW Fox Valley Update: Outagamie County approved spending for the engineering building. Tom also shared information on the new sound system (the hearing loop) that is being place in the Communication Arts Building to will help the hearing impaired.

County Board Scholarship: After much discussion on the scholarships, as to the number given and the dollar amount, it was decided to have this item put on the December agenda for further discussion and

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decision. It was decided to invite County Board member Jerry Finch to attend this meeting.

UW-Extension – Administration, René Mehlberg:

2010 Budget up date:

Mehlberg reviewed the November 2010 budget report. It was once again reported that the overall UWEX budget will come in at budget.

UWEX Staff/Office Updates:

- Chris Kniep is wrapping up her commitment as the chair of the UW Colleges and UW-Extension Chancellor Search and Screen committee.
- Friday, November 26th is a state furlough day.
- The Extension Office will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- The new Winnebago County UW-Extension website is up and running and the web address is the same.
- We are at full staff.

Comments by Committee Members: Topics discussed included if county funds go to Wisconsin Public Radio and local municipalities providing tax incentives for rain barrels.

Next meeting is Thursday, December 16, 2010, at 9:00a.m.

Meeting adjourned by Nancy Barker, seconded by Guy Hegg, at 10:40 a.m. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by: Melody Piper, Recording Secretary