

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, June 18, 2009**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Tom Widener, Susan Locke, Paul Eisen, Nancy Barker, and John Reinert.  
**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Kniep, Darlene Kramer, and René Mehlberg. **Others present:** Karen Hintz, Eastern District Director and David Irvine, Ridgeway 4-H Member.

**Meeting called to order** at 9:05a.m. by Chair Tom Widener.

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

**Motion to approve May 21, 2009 meeting minutes** by Eisen/Reinert. Motion carried 5-0.

**Department Updates – Chris Kniep:**

**2009 Budget Up-date / 2010 Budget Target:** Shared 2009 budget-to-date. Kniep shared that the 2010 county budget projection has a 3% maximum increase. She outlined proposed staffing changes for 2010: to eliminate the ½ time secretary, but include a Limited Term Employee (LTE) for the summer; to increase Kristi Cutts from 80%-100% to address the increasing community financial and housing needs. Kniep will have extra statewide responsibilities in 2010 that includes backfill money that will be used for Cutts' time increase. The committee's consensus is for Kniep to adjust positions as long as she stays within the 3% increase.

**UWEX Updates:** Good news: Kniep shared messages she has received complimenting staff on their work:

- Kevin & Ann Condon, Winnebago County dairy farmers, complimenting Nick Schneider, Ag Agent, on his email updates, field day, & the Ag in the Classroom
- Collaboration Workgroup complimenting Melody Piper, UWEX Secretary, for a great job assisting with a training session series.
- The Learning in Retirement (LIR) group from UW-Oshkosh used JPCC in 2009 7 times with 594 participants. They shared that "Staff is always very helpful and friendly."
- Finance Department thanking René Mehlberg for identifying an identify theft concern

Staffing: Rebecca Zarling, summer (LTE) will work a maximum of 500 hours. Laura Bahn is a summer intern working with both Schneider and Catherine Neiswender on various agricultural and economic projects.

UW Colleges and UW-Extension brochure committee members received was briefly explained by Kniep.

**Scholarship Program:** Awards presented at June 16 County Board Meeting. Kniep reported on the County Board presentation she saw on TV and acknowledged Widener for recognizing the recipients and thanking Jerry Finch for his many years with the scholarship program.

**State WACEC Report:** Widener highlighted the bus tour through the Amish area that Locke and he attended. The 2010 State WACEC convention is in Milwaukee over the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in June.

**Karen Hintz, Eastern District Director – UWEX Update:** Talked about the two main areas the 2009-2011 state budget will affect: 1) Rescinded the 2% pay increase the four educators were to receive on June 1. 2) Furloughs for all state employees, no matter the funding stream, employees are paid through such as federal grant funds, etc. The 8 day furlough will be for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011. The furloughs will affect Cooperative Extension employees, but not all of the details including how flexible the furloughs will be, have been finalized. Furloughs will be a 3% pay decrease for the four educators. If committee members have questions/concerns with the furloughs, pass information onto Kniep who will pass it onto Hintz.

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Hintz shared her appreciation of the committee's support, and thanks the committee for their support of Kniep as she moves forward with her department budget.

**UW-Fox Valley Update – Tom Widener:** Communications/Arts Center building is on schedule to be ready for fall semester. The facility is already receiving good publicity.

Hintz shared her experience at the UW Colleges Colloquium hosted by UW Fox Valley and reported that Kniep and Cutts presented their Rent Smart program there.

**Program Reports: Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) – Darlene Kramer:** Began by sharing unemployment, Food Shares, and poverty demographics of the 3 counties in the WNEP project, who comprise the target audience of WNEP.

Kramer shared handouts that overviewed the 2009-2010 summary of agency contributions and the agency agreements. A 2009-2010 goal is to do classes with a higher learning level and impact. Kramer increased the percentage of all nutrition educator time by 5% to off-set the increased programming need and the furlough impact - 3% reduction in pay. Kramer reported that if the furloughs are implemented, the 50% employees (Bongert and Thao Vang) would be losing benefits without the 5% increase.

Kramer distributed and read aloud the Winnebago County Agreement Letter and then answered questions regarding the various types of cost share contributions in the agreement. The agreement figure is much higher than past years. Kramer shared an email from State Coordinator Bev Phillips that detailed the budget break-down including the figures Maximus used to determine the county shared costs. The figure is much higher than past years because it includes both indirect and direct costs attributed to the office (\$68,465) and the Maximus calculations for the Winnebago County office space (\$10,507).

Kniep noted that between the three counties there is an excess of over \$43,000 in cost share that could be used in the 3 county project. Kramer responded that Bev Phillips, state coordinator, reallocates the excess cost share resources where they are needed, especially in counties like Milwaukee that don't meet their cost-share needs. Hintz commented that while each specific project "site" is to find enough cost share to match expenses and able to spend all of the dollars generated, WNEP is managed as a state project. Sites that have an "over" of funds are often reallocated to a different program in the state, for example Manitowoc County that will be a new site in 2009-2010. Committee members commented that given the growing numbers of food stamp recipients in the county and growing needs, that they would like to see the money generated by the proposal, especially the county support, to stay within the county. Kniep shared that Bev Phillips had noted the increases in Outagamie County numbers too.

Widener asked if the project is reaching all the people that we can, commenting about the growing Hispanic population in Omro/west side of the county. Committee members encouraged Kramer to do classes for higher level of learning/impact. Kramer reported that educators Thao Vang, Soper, and Bongert are doing classes at the new Oshkosh Community Food Pantry. Kniep described the food pantry "kits" that are being assembled to match recipes WNEP educators share at the pantry.

Eisen asked if it is appropriately on the agenda to sign on the agreement – should it have been agenzized? Especially since it comes to the spending of money. Widener agreed that it was not properly listed and that action could not be taken. While the committee agrees on the concept of the grant, the agreement letter was not signed as it was not formally on the agenda. The committee did request Kramer to check into keeping the \$43,000 locally. The signing of the agreement letter will be on the July agenda.

**4-H Youth Development – René Mehlberg:** Mehlberg introduced David Irvine, Ridgeway 4-H member, who told and showed via power point about their club's community service project with the Oshkosh Area

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Community Food Pantry. Irvine is the main youth leader with the project that helped create a fun children's area at the Pantry as well as Birthday bags for children's birthday that include all the items for a birthday cake. Eisen commended Irvine on the project and his enthusiasm.

Mehlberg shared that the transition of fair work to the fair board is working smoothly when asked.

**Comments by Committee Members:**

Barker commended Widener that the Scholarship Presentation at the County Board was very well run.

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

Meeting adjourned by Barker/Locke at 11:20a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
René L. Mehlberg, Recording Secretary