

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, January 19, 2012**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Tom Widener, Nancy Barker, Guy Hegg, Susan Locke and Jim Englebert.

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Kniep, Nick Schneider, Rene' Mehlberg, Neil Klemme, Mary Beth Seib, Kristi Cutts and Julie Grundy

**Others Present:** None

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

**Special announcement:** Tom Widener noted the recognition Guy Hegg's daughter received at the "Red Smith Banquet".

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

**Motion to approve December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting minutes** by Hegg/Englebert to approve the minutes. Motion carried after question by Guy Hegg regarding 2011 Fair loss of \$25,000 was explained.

**Program Reports:**

**4-H Youth Development – Neil Klemme, Rene' Mehlberg & Mary Beth Seib:** Mary Beth and Neil talked about their educational roles with the "World Showcase" in Menasha. Committee members were encouraged to attend the event scheduled for later that day.

Rene' explained to members the 4H Community Club work with adult and youth leader's at their annual training. She also described the various sewing, food and shooting sports workshops available to members. Rene' also noted the upcoming "Wild Game Meat Match" on March 3<sup>rd</sup> where children will eat and match meat to animals.

Mary Beth announced that her service as a VISTA will be ending Friday January 27<sup>th</sup>. She shared a listing of the many programs she was involved with while working with UW-Extension.

**Family Living Education – Kristi Cutts & Chris Kniep:** Kristi noted she has been involved with interviewing interns that will assist with the upcoming VITA income tax program offered at the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. The site will be open all Saturdays in February and March. Kristi works with the Oshkosh Area United Way, Oshkosh Seniors Center and UW-Oshkosh to deliver the program. There is also a VITA site at Goodwill in Menasha and the Oshkosh Senior Center.

Chris reported on the Home and Community Education (HCE) program, sharing their annual program book and fliers about two of the HCE community service projects. "Stitches of Love" provides 1200 – 1500 pieces of headwear for chemo and radiation patients in the area. The "Booksworms"™ program provides books, activities and readers for Head Start children in Oshkosh, Neenah and Menasha. The program is a statewide partnership with Head Start and Public television. Chris also shared that Winnebago County would be hosting the East District HCE Meeting this year with a theme of "Then and Now".

**Committee Chair Report – Tom Widener:**

**Parks/UWEX Storage Building discussion and possible decision:** Tom Widener up-dated the committee on the building project. The resolution was presented to the Personnel and Finance Committee, voted down by that group and referred to the Facilities and Property Management Committee. Questions regarding the appropriate steps to follow in pursuing a capital project were discussed. The committee discussed concerns regarding the project and the events that have occurred thus far. The storage space needed by UW-Extension has been defined as 3,000 – 3,500 sq. ft. The Parks department is seeking a larger space with office, meeting and restroom facilities.

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Members also discussed the possibility of having a separate building for UW-Extension/Fair storage. The group agreed to pursue going alone on space. Tom agreed to discuss the building request with the County Board Chair and County Executive.

**UW-Fox Up-date:** Tom noted that in May 2012 a County Board tour and open house of the Engineering Building at UW-Fox would be available and an open house is scheduled for September. Classes would start in the facility in September 2012.

**UW-Extension – Administration 2011 Budget:** 2011 budget update was distributed to members.

**UWEX Up-dates – Centennial, WACEC District Meetings:** Chris distributed a flier regarding the state meeting scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> in Green Bay and announced that the district meeting will be held in the fall – date to be determined.

**Staff Up-date:** Chris informed members about the news of Julie's illness at work the previous Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> and her quick return to work.

She updated members about Catherine Neiswender's adopted child Martin and her return to work plans.

She also informed members also about the illness of Kris Soper.

Kimberly Miller the new Horticulture Educator started Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Department Activities:** Rene' notified members about the scholarship deadline of April 2, 2012 and distributed copies of the applications to committee members.

Chris distributed the 2011 Meeting Room use report to members and noted that over 753 meetings were held at the Coughlin Bldg. in 2011.

**2012 Meeting Dates:** Chris distributed 2012 UW-Extension calendar to members.

**Comments by Committee Members:**

Next meeting is Thursday, February 16th at 9:00 a.m. at the James P. Coughlin Center.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 am. by Hegg/Barker. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Julie Grundy, Recording Secretary