

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, February 16, 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, Catherine Neiswender, Paula Hella and Julie Grundy

Others Present: Larry and Mary Last

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 January 19th, 2011 meeting minutes by Hegg/Englebert to approve the minutes.
Motion carried.

Program Reports:

Agriculture – Nick Schneider, Kim Miller: Nick explained to members a USDA grant received for Winnebago, Richland and Clark Counties for the “Shifting Gears” program that targets farmers as they plan for the future. The two session program was scheduled in Winnebago County for Wednesday, February 15th and Wednesday, February 22nd. Kristi Cutts is involved with the program, covering content related to family finances. Twelve individuals representing five farms in Winnebago County are participating in the program.

Nick also informed members that Kimberly Miller started January 16th for the 50% Horticulture position. Kim has been working with the Master Gardeners and will be responsible for the Community Gardens.

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program – Paula Hella: Paula provided members with an up-date on staff and programs. Currently, Paula is accepting applications for one of the open Nutrition Educator Positions. Paula also reported that Kris Soper and Susan Bongert have returned to work following medical leaves.

Paula shared information on a program she was doing later in the afternoon for parents at Butte de Mort Elementary School in Menasha. The program targets low income families, providing information on low cost and easy meals. Guy Hegg requested an up-date on the Back Pack program at a future meeting.

Committee Chair Report – Tom Widener:

Parks/UWEX Storage Building discussion and possible decision: Tom and Chris provided an up-date on the storage building discussions that have occurred since the last meeting. The proposed building was a topic on the Facilities and Property Management Committee agenda in February. At that meeting it was recommended that members of the Facilities, Extension and Parks committee have a tour of the properties/buildings on the Expo Grounds and along Butler Ave. between the JP Coughlin Building and Park View. The tour is tentatively scheduled for late April/May. Mike Elders has been asked to take the lead on securing costs of a new storage building. Committee members shared perspectives on the project and the processes being followed. Tom encouraged committee members to direct questions and concerns that they hear to Chris or him.

UW-Fox Up-date: Tom noted that remodeling of the engineering building continues no carpeting or painting has started due to classes in progress and is questioning if the County tour will be held in May.

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UW-Extension – Administration:

2012 Budget: Chris distributed a copy of Julie's 2012 UW-Extension budget to members and noted the budget was up and running.

UWEX Up-dates – Centennial, WACEC, District Meetings: Chris shared a centennial resolution template that has been shared with counties, asking if the committee would like to advance a centennial resolution to the county board sometime this year. The committee supported the idea. Chris will talk to staff about when and how to present this to the committee and county board.

Staff Up-date: Chris noted the office is full staff except for the WNEP Nutrition Educator just posted. Catherine Neiswender is currently working 3 days per week thru May 2012 then returning to full time.

Department Activities: Chris mentioned several upcoming meetings/programs to committee members including the series scheduled for the Neenah Library, Rent Smart and Get Checking, 4-H Fun Day and Camp planning and elected official WisLines.

Comments by Committee Members:

Next meeting is Thursday, March 15th at 9:00 a.m. at the James P. Coughlin Center.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 am. by Hegg/Englebert. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Julie Grundy, Recording Secretary