

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, March 17, 2011
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Guy Hegg, Susan Locke, and Nancy Barker. James Englebert absent.

UW-Extension Staff: Catherine Neiswender, Dan Teuteberg, Chris Kniep, Nick Schneider, Kristi Cutts, Darlene Kramer

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 February 17, 2011 meeting minutes by Hegg/Widener. Motion carried 4-0. Minutes were approved.

UW-Extension Department Overview – All Staff: Continued the UW-Extension orientation that began in January.

Dan Teuteberg, 4-H Youth Development Associate, provided a follow-up from the February discussion regarding the long term impact of 4-H membership. Dan researched the topic and gathered materials from State 4-H Specialists, District Liaison John DeMontmollin and Rene Mehlberg. Research indicates that 4-H member were three time more likely to volunteer in the community than non-4-H members. Also based on a study from Colorado about 55% of 4-H members attended college. Little information was found on job retention. There is considerable data on learning life skills via 4-H.

The two program areas featured in March were Community Resource Development and Family Living Education:

Community Resource Development:

Catherine Neiswender, highlighted the breadth of work done across the state in Community Resource Development and the role of the Educator in this work, which ranges from group facilitator to resource link to local researcher. Catherine work frequently is “behind the scenes” providing data and process information for community groups, municipalities, county departments and county government. Some of the programs she has worked with include: Smart Growth, Energy Planning, and Local Government Education. Catherine shared an example of a “Systems Model” that she uses in helping groups identify individual, group/community, and environmental impacts.

Family Living Education & Nutrition Education:

Darlene Kramer shared an overview of the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program, distributing a copy of the 2010-2011 year end report. Darlene also described the program changes prompted by the shift in Federal funding, which is re-focusing the program on Childhood Obesity. Some of the changes include elimination of the cost share match, a reduction in program documentation, and project funding being based on program history. There is also the potential for greater competition for the program dollars. The nutrition education program will continue to work with schools, WIC, and childhood obesity.

Chris Kniep and Kristi Cutts utilized powerpoint slides from NEAFCS(National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences) to describe the focus areas of Family Living Education nationwide, in Wisconsin and Winnebago County. Family Living Programs focus on three areas: Strengthening Families, Financial Management and Food Safety/Nutrition.

Kristi’s work primarily relates to the Financial Management area serving on the state financial team and offering local money management workshops at Head Start, the Community Pantry and Fr. Carr. Kristi’s other main focus is in this area of affordable housing (Rent Smart and the Winnebago Housing Coalition). Chris provides leadership to the Strengthening Families area providing leadership to Caregiving programs, child care provider training, family relationship topics and working with agencies

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and groups that support families. Chris also highlighted her work with the collaboration work group.

The program highlights concluded with linking to the department website that includes information on current programs, contact information and links to many resources.

Committee Chair Report, Tom Widener:

UW Fox Valley Update: Tom reported the bid for the engineering buildings went out. Completion of the building is scheduled for Fall of 2012. Tom met with Interim Dean Andy Keogh, to discuss the search for the new Dean. A search firm has been hired to assist with the search and screen process. Dean Keogh hopes the UW-Fox position will be filled by October 1, 2011.

UW-Extension – Administration, Chris Kniep:

2011 WACEC Meeting: Tom Widener, Nancy Baker, Susan Locke and James Englebert will be attending the meeting. Members will meet at the JP Coughlin Building at 12:00 noon on Monday, March 28th, and returning about 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30th.

The District WACEC meeting will be Friday, May 13, 2011 in Manitowoc. More information will follow.

2010 Annual Winnebago County UW-Extension Annual Report was handed out to members. Copies will be brought to the WACEC meeting to share with state officials.

2011 Budget: Chris reported that at three months into the 2011 budget expenditures have been limited. Chris would like to have a discussion at a later date on the possibility of establishing an "in/out" account for programs offered by the department.

Staff Up-date: Secretary Linda Block submitted her retirement papers, effect April 29th. Chris has visited with Karon Kraft about the opening and discussed options for refilling the position. She will be forwarding a request to fill the position to Mark Harris and Karon Kraft.

Federal & State Budget – impact on UWEX: Information on Smith-Lever Funding and the Wisconsin Idea Partnership were shared with committee members.

County Board Scholarship Update: Nancy Baker reported receiving a lot of interest from St Mary's Central in Menasha.

Comments by Committee Members: Guy Hegg requested a contact person to help explain some of the facts of the state budget. Dave Giroux was recommended. Melody will forward Contact information.

Next meeting is Thursday, April 21, 2011, 9:00a.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Barker/Hegg 11:20 a.m. Motion passed 3-0. (Committee Member Locke left at 10:50 a.m.)

Respectfully Submitted by:

Melody Piper, Recording Secretary