

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, April 21, 2011
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Guy Hegg (arrived at 10:00 a.m.), Susan Locke, and Nancy Barker. James Englebert.

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

Others Present: Larry Last, Debra Last

Meeting called to order at 9:15 a.m. By Chair Tom Widener.

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

Motion to approve March 17, 2011 meeting minutes by Englebert/Locke. Motion carried 4-0. Minutes were approved.

UW-Extension Program Reports

Community Resource Development:

Catherine Neiswender, highlighted the work she had been involved with related to Sustainability since 2007. Efforts have included informational sessions with municipalities, the UW-Fox Public Policy Forum a resolution proposed to the Winnebago County Board and the formation of a county "Green Team". The Green Team has been working on initiatives to save money and save resources. Early successes have included a 7% reduction in paper use by having printer default set at 2-sided printing, Parks department is purchasing green cleaning products from a local manufacturer, and an increased recycling of products. In May a UW-O intern will begin a summer project focusing on changing behaviors such as shutting off computers, recycling more products etc. that will save resources. Catherine serves as the convener of the group.

Committee members expressed support for this work and encouraged continuation of efforts. A presentation at the county board was recommended.

Agriculture:

Nick Schneider provided an up-date on the community garden program. Currently the primary garden is located on DNR property on Sherman Road, having moved a number of times the last 10 years. A second garden is located at Riverside Cemetery in Oshkosh. The program is run at cost and focuses on providing gardening space for homeowners without land to garden. In addition to these gardens, there are privately owned rental gardens. Ideally a long term site would be secured as well as separate accounting for the garden program. Currently about 30-40% of the gardeners are Hmong – this number has been decreasing as Hmong gardeners secure larger tracks of land for gardening.

Committee Chair Report, Tom Widener:

UW Fox Valley Update: Tom provided an update on the securing of an architect for the engineering buildings.

Library: The proposed state budget recommends a 10% cut to the library budget as well as changes to the maintenance of effort. The City of Fond du Lac library is interested in leaving the Winnefox System. It would require the entire county library system voting to leave Winnefox. Committee members discussed funding and "universal" access to libraries.

UW-Extension – Administration, Chris Kniep:

Staffing: Chris informed the Committee of Julie Grundy's illness and efforts to secure temporary help.

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Linda Block's retirement date is April 29th. Chris has submitted a request to fill the position and visited with Mark Harris and Karon Kraft. Options to fill the position are being explored.

2011 WACEC Meeting: Tom Widener, Nancy Baker, Susan Locke and James Englebert attended the meeting. Tom and Susan were recognized for 5 years of service. Chris shared copies of resources on the WI Partnership Idea that had been presented at the meeting. Guy Hegg asked that the cost to attend WACEC be determined.

The District WACEC meeting will be Friday, May 13, 2011 in Manitowoc. Tom, Susan, and Nancy plan to attend.

2011 Budget: Due to Julie's absence, no report was available.

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: A report prepared by Rene Mehlberg was distributed. Twenty-five applications were received from ten high schools, representing sixteen supervisor districts.

Butte des Morts County Fair: Dan Teuteberg provided an overview of the event. He is looking for Cloverbud Judges. Guy volunteered to judge.

Comments by Committee Members: Guy Hegg requested information on the history of the Airport Study. Tom Widener asked that the committee consider charging for the use of rooms at the Coughlin Building and requested a list of organizations that currently use the facility.

Next meeting is Thursday, May 26, 2011, 9:00a.m. **NOTE: this is 1 week later than usual**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Hegg/Locke 11:10 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Chris Kniep, Recording Secretary