

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

Members Present: Tom Widener, Nancy Barker, Guy Hegg, Susan Locke and Jim Englebert. Guy Hegg left the meeting at 9:50 am.

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Paula Hella, Kristi Cutts, Chad Cook, Kris Soper, Susan Bongert, and Julie Grundy

Others Present: None

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 October 20th, 2011 meeting minutes by Englebert/Hegg to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Program Reports:

Natural Resources – Chad Cook: Chad provided an overview of the work being done in WI to address watersheds that have pollution issues. The five watershed areas of greatest concern in Wisconsin are: Milwaukee, Sheboygan Lower Green Bay & Fox River, Menominee River and St. Louis River. UW-Extension was asked to help facilitate groups concerned with these waterways and develop action plans addressing the contaminated sediments and determine sources of the pollution. Chad attended the Green Bay Conference sponsored by Extension two weeks ago and noted the good progress presently underway on clean-up efforts.

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program – Paula Hella, Susan Bongert, and Kris Soper: Susan and Kris told members about the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry classes available on food preparation, food safety and home food preservation. Comments from the class participants were handed out for members to review. An Oshkosh Northwestern article noted the positive feedback about the class and information distributed at the workshops. Susan noted that Nick Schneider, Ag Agent has been working on a dairy program with the food pantry providing dairy vouchers for class participants. Kris updated the committee on the back-pack program. Paula provided an overview of her work experience and initial plans for the program.

Family Living Education – Kristi Cutts, Chris Kniep: Kristi shared with members the work she has been doing with Head Start, including a new monthly newsletter highlighting financial management skills created by Family Living colleagues in WI. Kristi is the author of one of the newsletters. Households receive one financial newsletter a month for eight months during the school year. Around 400 households enrolled in Head Start/Early Head Start received the monthly newsletter in 2010-2011 and have heard back from 154 households. A Family Friendly Event on Wellness will be held Dec. 16th. Kristi has developed a lesson plan and activity sheet that corresponds to a children's book on saving that will be given to children in attendance.

Chris presented a portion of the "Aging Friendly Communities" presentation she has been using with community groups and agencies in Winnebago County, neighboring counties and at the NEAFCS Annual Session. The presentation highlights the changes in the population and growing aging populations. Presently the baby boomers 55-64 years old are reaching age 65 at 10,000 per day. Her presentation showed population pyramids from 1901 through 2101 which illustrates the shift of the population. The presentation includes activities that encourage participants to consider if their community is ready for this population shift and what needs to be done to be ready for the "Aging Wave".

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Committee Chair Report – Tom Widener: Tom provided an up-date on the work being done at UW-Fox for the Engineering program.

UW-Extension – Administration, Chris Kniep:

2011 Budget: Chris updated members on the 2011 expenses and income.

Staff Up-date: Chris introduced Paula Hella, the new Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago WNEP Coordinator and noted that two open positions still need to be replaced in WNEP.

Chris also noted that beginning November 1st Nick Schneider's position was changed to a 50% county position and 50% interim Conservation Professional Training Specialist. This split is for a 1 year period. Nick and Chris worked with County Executive Mark Harris on the proposal. A 1 year, 50% interim horticulture position will be posted to cover Nick's work with Master Gardeners, the community gardens and horticulture calls.

The Coughlin Hallway display "After School Photography" from Jefferson and Maple Wood Schools was designed by Mary Beth Seib.

Chris mentioned the request from Rob Way, Parks Director to hold a joint Parks/Extension Committee meeting to discuss the proposed garage at the Expo Center. The proposed meeting date/time is December 6th at 8:30 am at the Coughlin Center. Committee members agreed to meet with the Parks Committee.

Tuesday, November 29th, Chancellor Cross will visit the Winnebago County office, the Oshkosh Community Pantry and meet staff. He is then scheduled to head to the Fond du Lac Extension office for the afternoon.

Comments by Committee Members: Tom would like to keep 2012 meeting schedules the same till April 2012 – the 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, December 15th, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the James P. Coughlin Center.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 am. by Englebert/Barker. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by: Julie Grundy, Recording Secretary