

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, December 19, 2013
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Nancy Barker, Guy Hegg, Susan Locke, Tom Snider, Tom Widener

UW-Extension Staff: Chad Cook, Kristi Cutts, Nick Schneider, Chris Kniep

Others Present: Tom Egan, Karen Pulfer, Larry Last, Debra Last

Meeting called to order at 9:00a.m. by Chair Nancy Barker.

Agenda Change: Motion by Hegg/second Widener to change agenda listing of Committee Chair Report from Guy Hegg to Nancy Barker. Motion carried.

Comments from the Public related to items on the agenda - none

Approval of Minutes: Widener moved to approve the November 21, 2013 minutes. Snider seconded. Motion carried.

Storage Up-date and possible action: Kniep stated that the up-dates have not been made to the agreement at this time due to time constraints.

Program Reports:

Fair Association: Tom Egan, fair board president and Karen Pulfer, webpage master and assistant to the Fair Association Treasurer, shared copies of the 2013 Association Balance Sheet. Increased gate sales and lower entertainment costs resulted in the Association recouping 2012 overages and a 2013 profit. The Fair Association will have the full 2014 budget request to utilize in 2014. Fair attendance was up in 2013 and weather cooperated. The financial support of the county makes this event possible.

Agriculture: Nick Schneider shared the “Winning the Game” program that he uses with grain growers. The program reviews marketing strategies for producers, providing examples on pre and post harvest marketing. Schneider completed training for this program via the University of Minnesota. He has presented the program in Winnebago, Green Lake, Oconto and Shawano counties. Committee members raised questions regarding the passage of the Farm Bill. The delay is making it difficult to plan programs with FSA. Schneider also highlighted his work with Affordable Care Act (ACA) targeting farm families.

Natural Resources: Chad Cook provided an overview of the work he is doing in water conservations/protection including work with the Lower Fox and Wolf Rivers and Lake Winnebago. Efforts include the PCB dredging of the Lower Fox, clean up of hot spots, work on nutrient management, algae issues and source pollution education.

Supervisor Hegg left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Committee Chair Report: Barker shared it was good to be back and recovering from her fall.

UW-Extension-Administration: Kniep

- Kristi Cutts described the role of UWEX in ACA work as primarily being the “connector” for resources. Information is shared in newsletters, news releases and in presentations on where to secure assistance. She will be presenting on ACA at the Annie’s Conference for farm families in January.
- A list of the 2014 meeting dates, the 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. was distributed

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- Evan Groth has started as a Nutrition Educator for the WNEP program and Kris Soper is on FMLA until January. The remaining WNEP position will remain open until the Farm Bill passes.
- Rene Mehlberg submitted a letter of resignation November 21st during her review. The state felt it was in the best interest of both Rene and the Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development program to end employment as soon as possible. Her last day in the office was December 6th. Early in 2014 Listening and Visioning sessions will be held to develop the position description for the next educator. A part-time interim 4-H Educator is being secured from another county.
- Our department would like to provide an overview of our work at a county board meeting in 2014. Kniep will work with Chair Albrecht to secure a date.
- County Board Scholarship documents will up-dated for distribution in January/February.
- Kniep shared highlights of the December Grandparent Support Group holiday gathering. About 75 grandparents/children attend the event.

Comments by Committee Members:

Widener commented on the development of a coordinated effort of county departments on Emerald Ash Borer. He would like to see departments working together on tree inventories, what to do now, options for disposal of infected wood, future needs, etc. Currently there is no funding for this work in the 2014 County Budget. Group discussed UWEX role.

Snider complimented Leonard Polzin and Chad Cook on the partnership they have formed with LWCD to reinstate Conservation Filed Days.

Next Meeting: January 16th 2014, 9:00 a.m.

Widener motioned to adjourn; seconded by Locke. Motion passed 4-0.

Adjourned: 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Chris Kniep, Recording Secretary