

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, September 18, 2014
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Nancy Barker, Tom Widener, Koby Schellinger, Tom Snider, Ron Hardy

UW-Extension Staff: Catherine Neiswender, Kristi Cutts, Matt Welter, Kim Miller, Evan Groth

Others Present: None

Meeting called to order at 9:00a.m. by Chair Tom Widener.

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

Approval of Minutes: Snider moved to approve the August 21, 2014 minutes. Barker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Program Reports:

4-H Youth Development: Matt Welter introduced himself to the committee as the new 4-H Youth Development Educator. He described his academic preparation and work experiences. He told the committee that he is bilingual in Spanish. He also shared information about his work during his first few weeks in the 4-H Youth Development educator position which included: attending 4-H club meetings, working on the 4-H newsletter, assisting in the hiring process for the 4-H Youth & Science educator position and executing a strategy for reaching 4-H millennials via Facebook. Welter responded to questions from the committee about his background, and a question about his thoughts on outreach to underserved populations.

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program: Evan Groth shared information about the Wisconsin Nutrition Education program (WNEP). He explained that WNEP is funded by the USDA to provide educational services to low income populations. He described WNEP as having an educational focus on the following 3 areas: 1) nutrition, 2) food safety, and 3) meal planning. He described some of the typical sites where education is delivered including: WIC offices, food pantries, senior meal sites, schools and area non-profits serving low-income audiences. Evan demonstrated some of the educational approaches including a display board geared toward “walk by” education, a “Be Food Safe,” flip chart for a 10-15 minute mini-lesson, and hand outs on meal planning used in a workshop. He also explained that WNEP is moving towards standardization, using just a few set curricula to position the program for gathering more in-depth evaluation data about program impacts. Evan responded to questions from the committee about the scope of the program and provided additional examples of educational programming sites.

Committee Chair Report:

Budget Insert: Chair Tom Widener reported that after the August Extension Committee meeting he reflected on the Emerald Ash Borer challenges facing Winnebago County as well as the diverse horticulture programming needs including Master Gardner and Community Garden programming. He reviewed the department budget to assess whether it would be possible to increase Horticulture Educator Kim Miller from a 50% time position to a full time position. He described meeting with the County Executive about this matter as well as UWEX Department head Christine Kniep to determine if monies could be reallocated to support this change. Catherine shared a handout from Christine Kniep describing changes to the initial departmental budget to support making Kim Miller full time. He reported that this change will be represented as a separate page in the Winnebago County budget book.

Storage Building: Chair Tom Widener reported that the work on replacing the garage on the Expo grounds where 4-H materials are stored continues to be in process. The plan is to replace the existing garage with a block building. A question arose about the need for a wall between the storage areas of 4-

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, September 18, 2014
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

H and the Fair. He reported that he didn't believe a wall was necessary, and that the goal continues to be to replace the existing building. He added that the process for replacing this storage space continues to move forward.

EAB: Chair Tom Widener reported that the survey of trees has been completed. He added that he expects a report to be available detailing the results of the inventory within the next month. The report will provide information needed to write an urban forestry plan for trees on Winnebago County property.

UW-Extension – Administration Neiswender shared information on:

Staff Up-dates:

Matt Welter began in the 4-H Youth Development Educator position on 9/2/14.

Melody Piper continues to be on medical leave. Michelle Peplow and Sarah Thompson are covering Melody's workload and keeping everything in order in the front office despite short staffing.

Hiring processes:

Youth & Science Educator:

Interviews are scheduled for September 22, 2014 for the Youth & Science Educator position.

Agriculture Position:

Screening of Agriculture Educator applications will begin shortly following the extended posting for this position. Catherine reported that 5 new applications were received during the extended recruitment period.

WNEP Coordinator:

Interviews have concluded for this position and an offer has been made. The candidate has given a verbal acceptance and is scheduled to start on 10/1 pending the comprehensive background check.

UWEX Up-dates – Department Activities:

Facebook Likes Catherine reported that recently the office has been actively using Facebook to outreach to millennials as reported previously by Matt Welter. Office conversations are scheduled to further explore how strategies like this using social media can support the work of Extension.

Comment by Committee Members:

Nancy Barker asked that she be kept apprised of the progress on the replacement of the storage building on the Expo grounds. She explained that as she also serves on the Fair Board committee she is often asked to provide updates on this issue. Barker also encouraged Tom Eagan to be invited to the next meeting to learn about the garage building plans.

Chair Tom Widener commented that he plans to include EAB on the October meeting agenda also, as well as a budget check in and garage update.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be held October 16th, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned: Schellinger moved to adjourn; seconded by Barker. Motion carried 5-0.
10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kristi Cutts