

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, June 19, 2014
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

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

UW-Extension Staff: Kristi Cutts, Kim Miller, Chris Kniep

Others Present: Vicki Lenz, Gretchen Raab, Jeff Gilderson-Duwe, Julie Stobbe, Mark Arend, Holly Selwitschka

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 March 20, 2014 minutes. Barker seconded. Motion carried.

Program Reports:

Winnefox Library: Copies of “**faces of the Winnebago County Libraries 2013 Highlights**” were distributed. Each of the Librarians highlighted programs and events of the past year:

Winneconne – Holly Selwitscha: celebrated 100 years, increase in library traffic, reconfigured staffing, increased outreach and promotional efforts, received national recognition for their work.

Omro - Julie Stobbe: 1,000 books before kindergarten is a major effort, created a space for young adults, worked with Master Gardeners to revitalize exterior of building, purchased additional property for future expansion.

Oshkosh - Jeff Gilderson-Duwe: outreach programs have focused on specific community needs, while circulation has decreased, programs have increased. High Hopes and an EAA program focus on reaching children and young families, on-going NANO writing programs bring in many regulars, computer literacy is of high interest, e-books and digital magazines are high demand.

Neenah – Gretchen Raab: they have had reorganization of staff, more study space including individual and teen space have been developed, Master Gardeners have been helping with grounds, Suburban Homesteading program has high attendance – partnered with UWEX on many sessions, St. Joe’s food pantry is a new “read and take” site.

Menasha – Vicki Lenz: decrease in reference needs has changed area to a “teen zone”, served as a site for Affordable Care Act information, community partnerships include Boys & Girls Club and a bi-lingual conversation club, emphasis on early literacy.

Gilderson-Duwe explained the basis for the Winnefox Library System agreement and the county’s support of libraries in the system to offset the use by county/rural residents. The funding provides for both operating expenses and building projects. The operating expenses reflect the circulation numbers of rural residents the previous year. Building project dollars are amortized over 20 years. The Oshkosh facilities request, year 21, reflects an error made in county budgets in 2006.

Motion by Hardy/Snider to approve the 2015 Winnebago County Library Services Levy Request. Passed 5/0.

Family Living Educator: Cutts and Kniep reported on the Landlord Education series that was piloted this spring. Kniep shared the history of this effort and how it builds on 10+ years of Rent Smart programming that focuses on tenant education. The series is a collaborative effort with the City of

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Oshkosh, the Housing Authority, Landlord Association and the Housing Coalition. Registration for the series was cut off at 100 participants. Copies of Resource Guide developed for the program were shared. Response to the series was very positive, providing direction for continued offerings.

Horticulture: Miller shared fliers for two series she is working on – Tree Identification and Chainsaw Use. Many municipalities use these training for their staff. Bids have been received for the ash tree inventory. Miller is working with the Facilities Department to select the provider. Municipalities in the county are dealing with EAB individually.

Committee Chair Report: Widener shared his approach to committee meetings – keeping discussion focused and report short.

UW-Extension – Administration Kniep shared information on:

Staff Up-dates:

- 4-H position applicants have been screened with interviews in July
- Agriculture position has been posted with interviews scheduled for August/September
- Nutrition program Coordinator position has been re-posted

Scholarship Program: a summary report prepared by Sarah Thompson was distributed to the committee. Widener will work with Thompson and Kniep on articles for the WCA publication.

UWEX Up-dates – Department Activities:

- **WACEC** - no one will be attending from Winnebago county this year
- **Garage** – Kniep continues to work with Facilities on the garage.

Committee Orientation – to be scheduled.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be held July 24th, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

Schellenger moved to adjourn; seconded by Barker. Motion carried.

Adjourned: 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Chris Kniep, Recording Secretary