

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, August 20th, 2015
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Nancy Barker, Tom Snider, and Ron Hardy.

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Catherine Neiswender, Kayla Oberstadt, Darrel McCauley, and Amy Timm.

Others Present: None.

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

Comments from the Public related to items on the agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes: Nancy Barker moved to approve the July 16th, 2015 minutes; Ron Hardy seconded. Motion carried 4-0 to approve the minutes.

Program Reports:

Winnebago Waterways Project: Catherine Neiswender presented an update on the Winnebago Waterways Project. Mark Harris will be putting an item in his budget for this project. A formal presentation will be delivered to the county board in September. Winnebago, Fond du Lac, and Calumet counties are being asked to each contribute seed money for a Program Coordinator position to take this program to the next level (\$15,000 each for a total of \$45,000 so far). This position would focus on outreach, education, seeking support grants, and coordinating between the agencies involved. Catherine, Chad Casper, and some individuals from both DNR and Land & Water are part of the steering committee for his project. The coordinator position would allow for investing in and protecting the future of the Winnebago Waterways without adding another layer of government.

Agriculture: Darrell McCauley presented on the 3-day Soil Health Field Day event in September. Day one is oriented towards agents and other county professionals. Day two is farmer/producer oriented. Day three offers individuals from UW Oshkosh to participate. The event will include a soil pit for education and demonstrations. Darrell provided a brochure for a seminar about calf care also occurring in September. Darrell is starting a research project with a local farm that has offered 500 acres for use. Darrell now has Jamie Patton (Soil Science PhD) as a mentor. For Nutrient Management planning, reducing phosphorus load in the Fox River is a primary focus. Darrell has been part of a project partnering farm producers with professionals using nutrient management planning to address costs and water quality. The interest meeting for Nutrient Management had a high turnout of 40 attendants from various backgrounds. Darrell shared that the Food HUB is interested in partnering with the Hmong community for food security.

Wisconsin Nutrition Program: Kris Soper discussed a new project that allows WNEP to administer classes at Father Carr's Place 2B in Oshkosh. Classes will be a set of 6 or 8, depending on time. Classes will address meal planning, including all of the food groups, dining-out, reducing/replacing salt and sugar, food safety, cooking for 1 or 2, and physical activity. Kris provided a handout about food storage safety as an example of what they will be teaching.

Family Living Programs: Chris Kniep shared about the focus for Family Living programs based on the Family Living Needs Assessment results. The three main areas of focus are family financial security, healthy living, and human development and family relationships. The Corrections Department has adopted the Rent Smart program for its Re-entry program. The Rent Smart curriculum is being updated and revised based on the changing audience (shifting towards older individuals, high schoolers, and individuals who have been in corrections). Chris has been working with family caregiving needs, focusing on Women in Poverty and The Hunger Taskforce. Mandi Dornfeld is working with Parenthetical, a new group gaining attention for caregivers of children in the "in-between" years. Mandi is also working with The Family Happy Hour, a program focused on getting families to spend time together and share a meal.

4-H Youth Development: Kayla Oberstadt shared 4-H involvement with Winnebago County Fair and State Fair. Kayla extended gratitude to everyone who participated and attended the county fair for their support. 4-H programs have been busy helping with the fair and the various 4-H and Fair awards programs. A community member donated a popcorn machine to 4-H, which allowed for an opportunity for a meet-and-greet. This "Pop on In" event brought in 19 interest cards for new families and allowed for the 4-H groups and members to meet Kayla and start connecting. The donated popcorn machine is available for checkout by 4-H clubs for fundraising and group events.

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, August 20th, 2015
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Kayla and Sarah Thompson are looking into opportunities that would allow for more youths to attend the State Fair and have their projects shown at both the Winnebago County Fair and State Fair.

Committee Chair Report:

Emerald Ash Borer: Tom Widener shared that chemical treatment for the EAB trees being preserved with the Facilities group occurred this past week. Facilities will continue including monies in their budget for future treatment and replacement of EAB trees. Diversity is important for preventing future issues with tree infestation across species.

The new expo building has had the materials from the old garage moved into it. Tom urged that the materials in the old expo building that haven't been used in recent years be disposed of.

The chair has not yet appointed a new member to replace Koby S.

The WCA conference as part of the WACEC had some delays in mailings for the conference, so anyone looking to register may experience difficulties booking lodging.

2016 Budget Proposal Update: Tom Widener and Chris Kniep met with the budget executive and financial director, and the budget was accepted as presented except for one small line item.

UW-Extension – Administration: Chris Kniep discussed how the administrative staffing changes have allowed for the four main program areas of UW-Extension to work together for promoting the various UW-Extension programs. Focus this year is 4-H youth development to support the community club programs and outreach. Chris shared that \$9,000 will be included for the County Board Scholarship fund. Similar to this year, a 10th scholarship can be granted next year if there is a very close consideration between finalists. On August 26th, there will be a De-Escalation Meeting for the UW-Extension office and a few other County departments.

Staff Updates: Chris Kniep shared that UW-Extension is fully staffed. Kayla Oberstadt started as the new 4-H Youth Development Educator on August 3rd. UW-Extension has become a host site for Forward Services that allows individuals to gain job experience, oversight, and evaluation while they look for more permanent work. Quintina Fuller is currently providing support to the UW-Extension office through the program.

UWEX Updates: Chris Kniep shared we are in the process of getting our PA system updated with a hearing loop to allow for more efficient use based on the various needs in the A/B Meeting Rooms.

Comments by Committee Members: None.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be held Thursday, September 17th, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned: Tom Snider moved to adjourn; seconded by Ron Hardy. Motion carried 4-0, 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Amy Timm

Approved :