

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Nancy Barker, Tom Widener, Koby Schellenger, Tom Snider

**UW-Extension Staff:** Kim Miller, Chad Cook, Darrell McCauley, Sarah Thompson, Chris Kniep

**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:** Barker moved to approve the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 minutes. Schellenger seconded. Motion carried 4-0 to approve the minutes.

**Program Reports:**

**Natural Resources:** Chad Cook described the responsibilities of his position and the network of educators across the state. Cook's work focuses on water quality across county boundaries, covering the north-east corner of the state. His work overlaps with Agriculture and Community Resource Development with funding for the position coming from UW-Extension and the Department of Natural Resources. He also works with Land Conservation departments. Based on the identified priorities and needs, Cook through outreach efforts, engages populations to address water quality issues. His work is not regulatory. Short term impacts of efforts such as the results of the PCB dredging, show up in the fish population. Long term impacts will become apparent over time.

**Agriculture Education:** Darrell McCauley shared with the committee his background and previous work with Cooperative Extension. Since joining the staff in November, McCauley has been attending UW-Extension orientation events, meeting with farmers in the county and setting up programs/meetings for 2015. Building on the Visioning session, Nick Schneider's exit report, work with LWCD and farm visits, McCauley has drafted a needs assessment to share with the agriculture community to focus his work. One hundred and twenty-four farmers attended the Farm Bill Training he helped teach on December 16<sup>th</sup>. He is also working with Kim Miller and Sarah Thompson to develop a comprehensive plan for Agriculture/Horticulture Education for the county. Plans are underway for the 2015 Breakfast on the Farm to be held at the Palmer farm in Winneconne.

**Committee Chair Report:**

**Horticulture-Emerald Ash Borer:** Kim Miller highlighted the findings of the Urban Forestry Report on county owned properties. She will be presenting the findings at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Orders Meeting of the County Board. Miller is working with both the Facilities and Parks departments on addressing ash tree mitigation/removal/plantings.

**Garage Up-date:** The construction contract is being drafted with building construction scheduled for spring 2015.

**PILD (Public Issues Leadership Development) Conference:** Tom Snider has been selected to represent WI at the Conference – YEAH Tom!!!

**UW-Extension – Administration**

**Staff updates:** Kniep shared an invitation to Melody Piper's retirement gathering, Tuesday January 6, 2015. Mel's last day in the office is Friday January 2, 2015. Kniep also shared that Kristi Cutts will be leaving the Department January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Kristi has accepted a position at UW-Oshkosh in the school for Business. Both positions have been approved for re-filling, with application deadlines in January. Two UW-Oshkosh Human Services interns will be joining the staff for the winter term.

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**UWEX Up-dates:** The Winnebago County office has been selected for a video conferencing system. The department has received requests to up-date the PA system for the large meeting room to accommodate multiple microphones. The current system is unable to have more than one mike open at a time.

**County Board Scholarship:** Sarah Thompson provided a history of the department's work with the County Board Scholarship program. Thompson has worked with the program for the last three years, preparing application documents and working with the County Clerk's office on the results process. She will have the packets up-dated for the January County Board meeting and will distribute to schools in the county. Thompson is also working on an article about the program for the WI Counties publication.

**2015 Meeting Dates:** Kniep shared the 2015 Committee calendar. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

**Comments by Committee Members:** none

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be held January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

**Adjourned:** Schellenger moved to adjourn; seconded by Barker. Motion carried 4-0.  
10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Chris Kniep

Approved : January 15, 2015