

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, February 15, 2024
James P. Coughlin Center - Meeting Room D
& Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Steve Binder, Karen D. Powers, Tom Borchart, and Doug Zellmer.

Members Absent: Kay Horan.

Extension Winnebago County Staff: Chris Viau, Mia Ljung, Hannah Phillips, Christi Gabrielska, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: Shanna Zastera.

Meeting Called to Order at 9:01 a.m. by Steve Binder.

Comments from the Public Related to Items on the Agenda/Requests to Add Items to the Next Agenda: Zastera requested a line item for library resolutions be added to the next agenda, including but not limited to American Library Association, dissociation from the ALA, policy to protect minors in designated areas, etc.

Approval of Minutes: Borchart moved to approve the 1/18/2024 minutes, second by Powers. Motion carried 4-0.

Safety Share – Tom Borchart: Borchart had no report to share. General safety and injuries were discussed.

Committee Chair Report: Binder attended the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. and brought back some resources on local government. Binder suggested they be shared with 4-H. He reminded everyone to vote in the Spring Primary Election on or before the 20th.

UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates:

- **FoodWise** – Gabrielska distributed and reviewed the FoodWise Year End Report for Fiscal Year 2023. 8% of Winnebago County residents experienced limited income and low access to grocery stores; 10% participated in the SNAP program to purchase food for themselves and their families. Kris Soper is the FoodWise Nutrition Educator who works primarily in Winnebago County. She has been providing programming at the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry, Casa Esther, Farmers Markets, Grocery Store Tours, and elementary schools. FoodWise collaborated with Oshkosh Boys & Girls Club and UW-Oshkosh Head Start again to facilitate a series of family cooking classes. The Oshkosh Boys & Girls Club has requested kitchen space with several cooking units for their new facility to increase cooking classes and allow participants to assemble, cook, and enjoy their own food during programs.

Phillips shared that the Food Security Network is on hiatus while focusing on the Network for Well-being, with a focus on Calumet, Outagamie, Waupaca, and Winnebago counties. Anyone is welcome to join. The focus is on networking, meeting at 2:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Grant applications have been submitted for funding garden beds for various programming locations: Multicultural Coalition (Menasha), People of Progression (Menasha), Taft Elementary School (Neenah), and the Extension Winnebago County Outdoor Classroom. Binder suggested that if any of the grant applications get denied to add a line item to the next agenda to request for Winnebago County to fund these projects. Committee members were in agreement. Borchart inquired about FoodWise involvement with farmers markets in Winnebago County other than in Oshkosh. Discussion ensued regarding contacts that have been made and how data is presented via reports.

- **Community Development** – Ljung distributed handouts with updates on Community Development and the new Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) Wisconsin program she's been trained to implement as a community coach. Ljung reviewed the initiative and asked for suggestions on communities that may be interested in implementing it. E2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystem guru, Don Macke, is a contact/resource for this program as well. REV focuses on small business development in a very comprehensive manner. The Entrepreneurs in Training Partnership works with individuals who have been or are currently incarcerated. The program has been linked to lower recidivism rates and has been well received. Ljung presented at the Governor's Conference on Diverse Business Development. The Entrepreneurs of Color (EoC) Spotlight has grown in support and participation. Ljung's final meeting with the Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society to wrap up their strategic plan is in March. The Plain Language Training pilot was in November and will be offered again in June. Grant Writing Workshops are at the end of the month. Reentry Dialogues are coming up in April during Second Chance Month; this will be a presentation and discussion on the video "Mistakes Do Not Define Who You Are." Discussion ensued regarding programming within correctional facilities.

Extension Administration and Department Reports – Chris Viau:

- **Facility Updates:** None to share.
- **Staff and Department Updates:** Viau and Hendrickson will be trained in how to use the new agenda prep software. Dana Berger had recruited Ian Olszewski as 4-H Intern for the spring semester. He has a background in animal science. The 4-H Summer Program Assistant position will be recruited in the upcoming months. The Horticulture Educator position will be posted soon. Katie Jaegly will be partnering with Neenah Library to conduct food preservation and safety workshops. The new meeting room management software is currently still under development. It is expected to launch later this spring/early summer.
- **Area/Region/State Updates:** UW-Madison is implementing a Wisconsin Idea themed budget. Discussion ensued regarding possible use of A.I. to organize data to create reports that tell the story.

Wisconsin Counties Association-UW Madison Division of Extension and Education Steering Committee

Update: Horan was absent.

Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion: Ask Dana about 4-H Pizza Sale due dates. Viau requested committee members share about the WeCOPE program and recruiting for GRG paid childcare volunteers. All Winnebago County Board supervisors receive the e-newsletter and are welcome to contact the Extension office with questions.

Comments by Committee Members: The Arby's Foundation donated \$74,000 to the Oshkosh Area School District to pay off lunch debts. They're donating \$11 million throughout the country to pay off lunch debts.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2024.

Adjourned: Powers moved to adjourn at 10:23 a.m.; seconded by Zellmer. Motion carried 4–0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson