

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, April 20, 2023
James P. Coughlin Center - Volunteer Room
& Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Steve Binder, Karen D. Powers, Tom Borchart, Doug Zellmer, and Kay Horan (via Zoom).

Members Absent: None.

Extension Winnebago County Staff: Chris Viau, Kris Soper, Sarah Thompson, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: None.

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: Horan attended the UW Madison Division of Extension and Education Steering Committee meeting. Presentation included the history of collaboration between Extension and Wisconsin counties. Binder and Horan requested adding an item to the next agenda for sharing updates on this committee.

Approval of Minutes: Borchart moved to approve the 3/16/2023 minutes, second by Zellmer. Motion carried 5-0.

Safety Share – Tom Borchart: Borchart reminded everyone to practice ladder safety while out doing hard work and housework. Use the appropriate ladder for the job you're doing, and do the job safely. Powers shared a reminder to not use blue or white swimsuits. Bright colors are much better for visibility in pools and other bodies of water.

Committee Chair Report: Binder recognized Mike Norton's 23 years of government service. Parks will be planting a tree and installing a bench in his memory. Powers will be carrying a card with her to any county meetings for supervisors to sign.

UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates:

- **FoodWise** – FoodWise is transitioning from school to summer programs. Soper is finishing her last school programs in the next few weeks and will begin programming at the Farmer's Market and conducting Grocery Store Tours throughout the summer. The organizers of the Farmer's Market have set aside \$300 for her programming there, which will provide gift cards for 30 participants. New programming collaboration with CASA Esther will involve gardening with kids. Programming with Menasha, Omro, and Oshkosh Boys & Girls Clubs is also underway.
- **Youth & Science** – Thompson distributed and reviewed a Winnebago County 4-H April 2023 Report. She has been doing After School programming, Pizza Making, Cloverbud Workshops, Explorer Workshops, and ChickQuest. Planning is underway for Cloverbud Camp and a STEM event with Oshkosh Corporation.

Extension Administration and Department Reports – Chris Viau:

- **Outdoor Classroom Project Proposal – Discussion Only:** Dana Berger, Viau, and Thompson have been coordinating with the City of Oshkosh and the Winnebago County Facilities & Property Management to explore the feasibility of installing an outdoor classroom project to include a chicken coop and raised garden beds. The project would involve collaboration between 4-H, Horticulture, and FoodWise programming. The project would be entirely grant and donation-funded. More information will be shared as they work through the process.
- **Facility Updates:** Bezio initiated an office-wide clean up of files and office equipment before her departure. Some items went up for auction through the county, and most of them have already been picked up.
- **Staff and Department Updates:** 2023 Budget spending is on track or underspent so far, which is typical for the first quarter. 2024 Budget preparations will begin in the upcoming weeks. The Regional Dairy Educator position (covering Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, and Winnebago counties) preliminary interviews are April 26th with final interviews May 15th. Jody Bezio has transitioned to her new role in Land & Water Conservation. Robin Franzita will start in the Administrative Associate role on Thursday, April 27th. Final interviews for the Health & Well-Being Educator position were completed last week. Two very strong candidates were identified, and Viau is completing the steps to extend an offer soon. Megan Numrich will serve as the Summer 4-H Program Assistant beginning May 24th through the end of August.
- **Area/Region/State Updates:** None.

Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion: None.

Comments by Committee Members: None.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2023.

Adjourned: Borchart moved to adjourn at 10:05 a.m.; seconded by Powers. Motion carried 5–0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson