

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, August 18, 2022**  
**James P. Coughlin Center - Volunteer Room**  
**& Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:** Steve Binder, Tom Borchart, Kay Horan, and Doug Zellmer.

**Members Absent:** Karen D. Powers.

**Extension Winnebago County Staff:** Chris Viau, Sarah Thompson, and Dana Berger.

**Others Present:** Mike Norton, Rachael Dowling, Rebecca Nichols, Ralph Harrison, and Bryan Stafford (Winnebago County Board Supervisors), Jared Longsine (Diversity Affairs Commission Chair), and Debbie Wenzel.

**Meeting Called to Order** at 9:00 a.m. by Steve Binder.

**Comments from the Public Related to Items on the Agenda/Requests to Add Items to the Next Agenda:** Dowling introduced herself and reviewed her history with and assessment of the Diversity of Affairs Commission (DAC). Norton expressed his interest in developing an opportunity for local students to learn more about county government. Norton also suggested a learning program where students could receive training regarding county work during the school year to later gain employment with the county. Longsine shared his assessment of the DAC and encouraged dissolution of the Diversity Affairs Commission. Nichols encouraged the dissolution of the DAC be listed as a specific agenda item for the public to have the opportunity to weigh in. Wenzel shared her observations and questions regarding the DAC.

**Approval of Minutes:** Horan moved to approve the 7/21/2021 minutes, second by Zellmer. Motion carried 4-0.

**Safety Share – Tom Borchart:** None.

**Committee Chair Report:** Binder reviewed that the Extension department's 2023 budget proposal included a request to add a Health and Well-Being Educator at 0.8 full-time status to fill the role recently vacated by Mandi Dornfeld.

**UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates:**

- **4-H Youth & Development** - Berger distributed copies of her latest report to the 4-H Leaders' Association and reviewed highlights with the committee. There is a new financial handbook for club leaders and youth treasurers to utilize. Several opportunities are available to 4-H youth through UW-Madison for trips/experiences. Fall Forum is in November. Viau gave a quick review of the Civil Rights Review process. Berger recapped the 4-H experience at the 2022 Winnebago County Fair. The 4-H wing saw increased traffic compared to previous years. The Basket Raffle had 36 items submitted. Overall, there were many positive reports about 4-H at the fair. 4-H Re-enrollment opens in September. In-classroom clubs are being offered as an alternative to community clubs; Chick Quest is an example. 4-H Summer Camp preparations are underway for 2023. Berger is working with the Parks Committee to reduce fees for 4-H groups to use their facilities. The Awards Banquet is coming up soon.

**Extension Administration and Department Reports – Chris Viau:**

- **2023 Budget Proposal/Update:** Due to the need to meet the 2023 budget levy while absorbing increased labor expenses, the Extension Winnebago County office submitted a budget request omitting the vacant Human Development and Relationships/Health and Well-Being Educator role. A Budget Add Request was submitted separately requesting funding for a Health and Well-Being Educator role.
- **Facility Updates:** The building is seeing increased meeting room usage.
- **Staff and Department Updates:** Madisen Potratz will begin her new role as Horticulture Educator on August 29th. With staff transitions, an office-wide clean-up project is underway as staff move offices and purge materials that are no longer relevant/used.
- **Area/Region/State Updates:** Viau is completing 2023 budget requests for all 4 counties. Area staffing strategies are also under consideration and include both Regional Dairy Educator and Regional Crops Educator positions.

**Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion:** Binder suggested the Extension Committee members review the newsletters and utilize the committee comments portion of the County Board meetings to share upcoming events.

**Diversity Affairs Commission:** Binder suggested moving the DAC forward another 3 months and assign a coordinator to guide the commission. He supported moving the DAC under the authority of Personnel & Finance, Human Services, or Public Health instead of the Extension Committee. If funding for a coordinator does not get approved with the 2023 budget in November, Binder would support dissolving the commission. Norton reviewed his history of starting the DAC. He supported moving the DAC under a different authority. Viau reminded all those present or viewing that the term “Extension” has been incorrectly used interchangeably throughout this meeting. There are 2 separate entities: the *University of Wisconsin Education, Extension, and Agriculture Committee* and the *Extension Winnebago County Department*. Extension Winnebago County Department staff have been providing support and advisory duties to the DAC, but they have no authority over the DAC. The University of Wisconsin Education, Extension, and Agriculture Committee provides oversight to the DAC. Harrison stated he’s heard there have been issues retaining DAC members and scheduling meetings, and asked for more information. Discussion ensued regarding the obstacles the DAC has been facing. Binder reminded DAC members that they have funds that can be used to hire speakers who are willing to be recorded, which will eliminate potential issues with open records violations. Horan reviewed the history of the resolutions involving the DAC and her history with the commission. Horan highlighted that the DAC has met its 2022 Strategic Plan goal of hosting 6 educational events this year. Borchart suggested focusing on developing the 2023 Strategic Plan to work with the recording guidelines and request additional funding if necessary. Discussion ensued regarding updating the bylaws. Stafford shared his personal experiences and concerns over use of the terms equity versus equality.

**Scholarship Task Force:** Stafford suggested increasing the scholarship award amount; he also suggested increasing the marketing of the scholarship more widely. Norton suggested reserving at least 1 scholarship per year for nontraditional students. Discussion of the history of the scholarship distribution and oversight ensued. This topic will remain on the agenda for September.

**Comments by Committee Members:** Horan expressed her appreciation of fellow committee members.

**Committee Meeting Schedule:** No discussion.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held at 9:00am on Thursday, September 15, 2022.

**Adjourned:** Horan moved to adjourn at 11:12 a.m.; seconded by Zellmer. Motion carried 3–0 (Borchart left prior to vote).

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson