

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, October 19, 2023**  
**James P. Coughlin Center - Meeting Room D**  
**& Zoom Virtual Meeting**

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

**Members Absent:** None.

**Extension Winnebago County Staff:** Chris Viau, Dana Berger, and Amy Hendrickson.

**Others Present:** Jon Doemel (County Executive) and Winnefox Library System representatives: Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox Library System), Brian Kopetsky (Menasha), Lisa Voss (Oshkosh), Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm (Neenah), and Anna Ludwig (Omro). Amanda O'Neal (Winneconne) was absent due to illness.

**Meeting Called to Order** at 9:02 a.m. by Steve Binder.

**Comments from the Public Related to Items on the Agenda/Requests to Add Items to the Next Agenda:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** Horan moved to approve the 9/21/2023 minutes, second by Borchart. Motion carried 5-0.

**Safety Share – Tom Borchart:** Borchart reminded everyone to be aware of pedestrians and motorists out and about when driving, especially when it's dark outside. With increasing hours of darkness, everyone was reminded to be aware of mental health as well.

**Committee Chair Report:** Binder initiated introductions for all attendees. Binder delivered an overview of the UW System changes, including budget changes and closure of two 2-year campuses: UW-Milwaukee's Washington County campus and UW-Oshkosh's Fond du Lac campus.

**Winnefox Library Systems:**

- **Annual Report:**

Elisha D. Smith Public Library's (Menasha) - Kopetsky highlighted their "ecosystem for learning" approach to programming. The SMITHworks Community Studio was highlighted. The library was recognized last fall with the Wisconsin Library Association Programming Innovation Award. Program attendance has increased.

Neenah Public Library (Neenah) - Hardina-Wilhelm highlighted activity/book bags, intergenerational storytime connecting youth with seniors at Valley VNA Senior Care, and various other programming. They've focused on outreach, collaboration, and creative programming.

Oshkosh Public Library (Oshkosh) - Voss highlighted High Hopes, an interactive storytime fostering parent-child relationships while increasing skills for reading. Other programming includes Not Your Classic Book Club, community outreach, and collaboration with Oshkosh schools.

Carter Memorial Library (Omro) - Ludwig highlighted new programming, book subscription boxes, STEM kits, State Park passes, and more. Omro library also collaborated with Casa Esther, Extension Food Wise, and Master Gardeners to offer a hands-on garden learning experience.

Winneconne Public Library (Winneconne) - O'Neal was absent. The Winnebago County Libraries 2023 Highlight booklet includes a programming review.

Library representatives explained that a large portion of their programming is funded by donations, in addition to budget funding. Discussion included the importance of making the libraries environments where all people feel welcome and comfortable. The Winnebago County Libraries 2023 Highlights booklet was distributed with more information. The library system also has a "library of things" available for patrons, including Happy Lights for light therapy during periods of the year with limited daylight. Sommersmith extended her appreciation for all the work the libraries do and the support they receive from the county.

- **Audit of Winnebago County Library Borrower Registration Records:** Sommersmith distributed and gave a brief overview of the Report of 2023 Audit of Winnebago County Library Borrower Registration Records packet.

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

- **4-H Youth Development** – Berger distributed and summarized her 2023-2024 Plan of Work. The document reviews current data, demographics, target audiences, participant outcomes, action plan, evaluation plan, and internal actions and program capacity-building. Primary foci are expanding access and program quality. Berger highlighted the training and logistics behind ensuring programming is safe and successful. Sarah Thompson, Youth & Science Educator, will primarily focus on outreach to bring 4-H programming into local schools and develop school clubs for children who are unable to participate in traditional community clubs. Berger distributed and reviewed the Winnebago County 4-H October 2023 Program Report & Updates. Re-enrollment is underway and closes November 20<sup>th</sup>. ChickQuest with the Oshkosh Rec Department was a success. The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual 4-H Sunflower & Pumpkin Growing Contest was a success. Summer Camp counselor recruitment and training are underway. Berger reviewed various funding requests for project enrichment.

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

- **2024 Extension Executive Budget Review:** Viau distributed copies of the Extension Winnebago County Budget Proposal. Due to the Health & Well-Being Educator contracted position becoming co-funded with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, the overall budget request is lower than last year. Account variances are due to increased programming considerations with being fully staffed. The request also included an increase for purchasing and implementing a different program for use between Parks and Extension Winnebago County for program registrations and meeting room/parks/expo reservations. Viau reviewed other smaller areas of variance.
- **Facility Updates:** No updates shared.
- **Staff and Department Updates:** The Extension Winnebago County office may close November 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> for staff to attend a professional development opportunity.
- **Area/Region/State Updates:** Discussion ensued regarding the recent announcement of defunding UW staff raises. FoodWise staff are federally funded, so interruption of service may occur if there is a federal shutdown.

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

**Update:** Horan had no update to share.

**Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion:** No suggestions were made.

**Comments by Committee Members:** Binder opened discussion on the possibility of combining multiple committees. Viau shared his personal experiences from other counties with combined committees. Binder and Viau expressed appreciation for the relationship between Extension Winnebago County and the Extension Committee.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

**Adjourned:** Borchart moved to adjourn at 10:49 a.m.; seconded by Horan. Motion carried 5–0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson