

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, December 21, 2023
James P. Coughlin Center - Meeting Room D
& Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

Members Absent: None.

Extension Winnebago County Staff: Chris Viau, Katie Jaegly, Sarah Thompson, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: Mike Domke and Matt Neuman (Winnebago County Fair Association).

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: None.

Approval of Minutes: Horan moved to approve the 11/16/2023 minutes, second by Zellmer. Motion carried 4-0.

Safety Share – Tom Borchart: Borchart reminded everyone about slips and falls prevention. Be wary when conditions are right for ice and black ice. Do the penguin shuffle.

Committee Chair Report: Binder thanked the Fair Board members for all the work they do as volunteers.

Winnebago County Fair Association: Domke distributed gate attendance, financial highlights, and Winnebago County Fair Association budget balance handouts. Domke reviewed some of the revenues and expenses related to the 2023 fair. Parking was improved to reserve more handicap and senior parking near the entrance; more improvements are in progress for future years. Next year's theme is "Strolling Through the Fair Without a Care". Domke expressed his appreciation for the county board's funding support for the 2024 fair. Discussion ensued regarding ticket pricing and entertainment options. One focus will continue to be marketing to increase awareness of the activities that are included with the \$12 or \$15 ticket price. Annual Meeting tonight at the Expo; all are invited.

UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates:

- **Health & Well-Being** – Jaegly distributed a WeCOPE Daily Practice Guide and a Health & Well-Being program activity handout. Jaegly started programming at the Oshkosh Boys & Girls Club: Mindful Eating for Families and 8 Ways to Wellness. Jaegly is collaborating with the Health Department to offer the Strong Bodies program at various locations. Participation data is being collected, but over 150 people have participated this year. WeCOPE will be offered at the Oshkosh Boys & Girls Club and the Tiny House Village. Other locations are being coordinated. A virtual offering is also available to reach individuals across the state and those who cannot attend in-person. p.d.s.SPARK will begin in the new year for increasing wellness for women.

Extension Administration and Department Reports – Chris Viau:

- **Facility Updates:** New Meeting Room reservation software has been secured and will be implemented in 2024. Hendrickson and Robin Franitza will be attending training and assisting with set-up starting in January.
- **Staff and Department Updates:** Madisen Potratz left her Horticulture Educator position on December 14th to take a new position with UW-Madison Division of Extension as a Communications Specialist. She will work remotely but will utilize space in our office about once a week. The Horticulture Educator position will be posted mid-January with a potential start date in April. Our office will maintain financial responsibility for the upcoming Professional Landscapers Conference. The Ask a Gardening Question platform continues being improved for consumer use throughout the state. Consumers and staff can submit consumer inquiries through this platform.
- **Area/Region/State Updates:** Extension staff performance reviews are upcoming. Viau invited committee members to provide any positive or constructive feedback they may have about Extension Winnebago County staff to Viau throughout the year. Pay raises, back pay, and trades negotiations for UW staff have been approved with significant compromises in other areas of funding. Horan inquired about partnering with other counties for data collection and reporting. Viau explained the reporting portal that Extension staff already use and how the process works. Borchart inquired about tracking and sharing participation numbers and demographic location data for evaluating program outcomes and budget needs. Discussion ensued.

Wisconsin Counties Association-UW Madison Division of Extension and Education Steering Committee Update: Horan had no updates to share.

Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion: Viau suggested reviewing the newsletter.

Comments by Committee Members: None.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2024.

Adjourned: Horan moved to adjourn at 10:16 a.m.; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 5–0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson