

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, February 17, 2011
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Guy Hegg, Susan Locke, Nancy Barker (arrived 9:20am), James Englebert (arrived 9:25)

UW-Extension Staff: Catherine Neiswender, Dan Teuteberg, Chris Kniep, Nick Schneider, and René Mehlberg

Meeting called to order at 9:17 a.m. By Chair Tom Widener.

Comments from the Public related to items on the Agenda: None

Tom Widener noted that Committee Members Nancy Barker and James Englebert were attending a meeting for the Menasha Health Department and will arrive as soon as that meeting is finished.

Motion to approve January 20, 2011 meeting minutes by Lock/Hegg. Motion carried 3-0. Minutes were approved.

UW-Extension Department Overview – All Staff: Continuing the UW-Extension orientation begun in January, this month two of the program areas were featured:

4-H Youth Development: René Mehlberg, 4-H Youth Development Educator, highlighted the current number of clubs and members in Winnebago County. She identified some of the most popular program in the county – shooting sports, horses and food and nutrition. She also shared the values and life skills member learn in projects. **Dan Teuteberg**, 4-H Youth Development Associate, spoke on the After School Program and the CLC (Community Learning Center). In 2008, 400 kids participated in these two programs. By 2009 the number had increased to 1500 and in 2010 were about 3500 youth involved. Five students from Hoover Elementary School (Neenah) spoke to the committee about the CLC program. The youth asked committee members if they had ideas of where they could be of use as a volunteer in their community. The youth were accompanied by MaryBeth Seib, the new AmeriCorps Vista and one of the After School Program staff members.

Nick Schneider, Agriculture Agent, explained the role as Agriculture Agent in Winnebago County. Nick described the organization of Agriculture Programs in Wisconsin and how they respond to national and state initiatives. Nick is on the Crops and Soil, Emerging Agriculture Markets, Farm Financial and the Vegetable Teams. Sharing agent expertise, Agriculture Agents work across county lines to meet the needs. In January, Nick hosted a workshop on drainage that drew farmers from a large area. Registration for the program far exceeded expectations resulting in the program being broadcast to other counties.

Catherine Neiswender, Community Resource Development (CRD) Educator, spoke to how the work of Nick, Dan and Rene bring value to individuals, families, business and the community. Catherine highlighted additional information in the “Cooperative Extension – Growing a strong Wisconsin” brochure.

Committee Chair Report, Tom Widener:

UW Fox Valley Update: reported on the sudden retirement of Dean Jim Perry. Andrew Keogh will fill in until a new Dean is found.

UW-Extension – Administration, Chris Kniep:

2011 WACEC Meeting: Tom Widener, Nancy Baker, Susan Locke and James Englebert will be attending the meeting. Committee Member Hegg questioned the role of WACEC at this meeting.

2011 Extension Committee Meeting Calendar: members agreed the current schedule works for them

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and requested no change at this time.

Budget Transfer Request - \$3,595 to purchase cutter: Is schedule for the County Board meeting, February 22nd, and the 2011 budget **up-date:** Chris Kniep, reported there is no change in the 2011 budget as of this date.

County Board Scholarship Materials: Scholarship materials were mailed to all the high school guidance counselors.

Resource Advocacy Network (R.A.N.): Responding to a request from UW-Extension Dean Rick Klemme, staff identified and compiled a list of community members to serve on the network. From the list, twelve individual were contacted and agreed to serve. R.A.N. members will be kept informed of legislation affecting UW-Extension and occasionally asked to contact elected officials.

Comments by Committee Members: Nancy Baker praised the behavior and politeness of the youth involved in the Legopalooza at Menasha's Gegan Elementary School.

Next meeting is Thursday, March 17, 2011, at 9:00a.m.,
Meeting adjourned by Barker/Locke 10:50 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Melody Piper, Recording Secretary