

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, January 20, 2022
James P. Coughlin Center - Room A/B

Members Present: Tom Snider, Steve Binder, Tom Borchart, Karen D. Powers, and Doug Zellmer.

Members Absent: None.

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

Others Present: None.

Meeting Called to Order at 9:03 a.m. by Tom Snider.

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

Approval of Minutes: Zellmer moved to approve the 12/16/2021 minutes, second by Borchart. Motion carried 5-0.

Safety Share – Tom Borchart: Borchart reminded everyone to dress appropriately for the season. Powers reminded everyone to “walk like a penguin” when walking in icy or slippery conditions. COVID is growing more prevalent in our area right now, so take the recommended precautions.

Committee Chair Report: Snider shared that the Diversity Affairs Commission Bylaws and Strategic Plan were not approved at the County Board. Suggestions for edits and comments regarding the amendments were made. Rewrites will be completed for future presentation for approval.

Diversity Affairs Commission: The committee would like to have the revised documents ready for vote at the February Extension Committee Meeting, and then presented at the next appropriate County Board Meeting. Viau advised the committee of the new timeline being implemented by the County for agenda and action items. He advised that due to the timeline, the committee may need to call a special order meeting. After discussion, the committee suggested moving up the February meeting to the 10th. Powers moved to reschedule the February Extension Committee Meeting to February 10th, seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 5-0.

- **Secretary Position Discussion** – None of the current commission members want to take minutes due to not being able to fully participate during the meeting while also taking minutes. One suggestion was to record the meetings and send the recording to the Clerk’s office for a staff member to review and record the minutes. Members discussed alternative ideas.

UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates: Snider inquired whether the Extension Winnebago County Review document gets sent to the Clerk’s office. Snider expressed desire for this document to be shared with the entire County Board. He will speak with Sue Ertmer to confirm if this can be done.

- **4-H Youth Development** – Berger distributed results of the Youth Thrive state 4-H survey, completed by 4-H youth ages 13-19 years. Berger reviewed the results and shared her reflections. Overall, survey results showed very positive outcomes with some room for improvement. This information will be presented to the County Board at an upcoming meeting. The committee suggested presenting for the County Board after April elections to educate new members. Berger reviewed upcoming 4-H programming: 4-H Fun Day, Art Retreat, Youth Advisory Committee, and Teen Winter Leadership Camp.

Extension Administration and Department Reports – Chris Viau:

- **Facility Updates:** Jody Bezio has been the lead for meeting room scheduling. A large number of scheduled meetings have been cancelling or shifting to virtual meetings due to COVID. Facilities staff is limited in their ability to deep clean in the building, so meeting room users are still being advised to disinfect and clean both before and after their meetings.
- **Staff and Department Updates:** Pesticide Applicator Training is shifting toward a statewide model. Some in-person and virtual training and tests have been scheduled for this spring.
- **Area/Region/State Updates:** Waupaca County voted to remove funding for agriculture education in their county. This results in the need for updating the staffing model for a Regional Agriculture Educator position. Viau will provide updates as they are available. Due to potential financial impacts and changes within state Horticulture education programs, Viau is strategically holding off on posting the Horticulture Educator position.

Priority is filling a Regional Crops Educator role. Borchart inquired about American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds being used for daycare programming/funding. Viau explained educational programming that may be available if the County pursues this avenue for utilizing funds. Final guidelines for how to utilize distributed ARPA funds were finally released at the beginning of 2022.

Comments by Committee Members: Zellmer complimented how informative the 4-H Newsletters are.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, February 10, 2022 if updates for the Diversity Affairs Commission can be made in time. If not, the next regular committee meeting will be held February 17, 2022.

Adjourned: Borchart moved to adjourn at 10:41 a.m.; seconded by Zellmer. Motion carried 5–0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson