

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, February 18th, 2016
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Nancy Barker, Tom Snider, George Scherck, and Ron Hardy.

UW-Extension Staff: Catherine Neiswender, Amy Timm, and Katie Geis.

Others Present: None.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Tom Widener.

Comments from the Public related to items on the agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes: Scherck moved to approve the 1/21/ 2016 minutes; seconded by Snider. Motion carried **5-0**.

Program Reports:

Community Development: A results handout from the *Rural Transportation Survey* was distributed. Neiswender reviewed results of the 96 surveys collected from Winneconne and Hortonville. Survey intent was to characterize the transportation needs and patterns in those communities. Discussion ensued about the implications and impact of transportation issues and the need for alternative means of transportation. Results revealed a lack of awareness among participants concerning available transportation options. Survey results indicate there would be increased interest in extending the *Make the Ride Happen* (MRH) program. MRH is also testing a private van pool program utilizing a driver coordinating rides for individuals. Immediate impact of the survey was recruitment of 12 new volunteer drivers. The program goal is to utilize the survey to better understand need in the communities and expand program services.

Agriculture: McCauley was unavailable. His presentation has been postponed.

Committee Chair Report:

nEXT Generation: Widener shared an upcoming *nEXT Generation Update and Dialogue WisLine* with Chancellor Cathy Sandeen regarding the nEXT Generation recommendations on Monday, February 29th at 10:00am. Neiswender distributed the agenda. This WisLine is an opportunity for UWEX staff and Extension Committee members to ask questions regarding what the updates will look like in the future. Discussion ensued regarding what the changes could look like for UW-Extension.

WACEC: Neiswender distributed an agenda and handout for the WACEC WisLine on Friday, February 26th at 9:00am.

UW-Extension – Administration: Neiswender distributed a handout created by Chris Kniep sharing information about UW-Extension Administration. In the handout, Kniep expressed her appreciation for the staff and how they are dealing with the uncertainty during this time of change.

PA System/Hearing Loop Status: The system and parts are in place with connections currently in progress. Some adjustments are underway to improve function with the PA System and Feedback Loop updates.

Staff Updates: The WNEP Coordinator position has been posted with changes to position title and base location. Neiswender distributed the job posting. Neiswender introduced Katie Geis, Forward Services Volunteer, explaining UW-Extension partnership with Forward Services in taking on volunteers to help them gain job experience and skills.

UWEX Updates – Department Activities: Neiswender distributed the 2015 Annual Report.

Comments by Committee Members: None.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, March 17th, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned: Snider moved to adjourn; seconded by Hardy. Motion carried **5-0**, 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Amy Timm