

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, February 18, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

Members Absent: None.

Extension Winnebago County Staff: Chris Viau and Dana Berger.

Others Present: Mike Norton (Winnebago County Board Supervisor).

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 a.m. by Steve Binder.

Comments from the Public Related to Items on the Agenda: Norton requested the Winnebago County Scholarship be added as an item to the March Extension Committee Meeting agenda. Snider and Viau shared that the oversight of this scholarship is now under the County Clerk's office and Corp. Counsel. Whether the

Approval of Minutes: Binder moved to approve the 1/21/2021 minutes; seconded by Borchardt. Motion carried 4 – 0; Snider abstained from the vote.

Safety Share: Borchart shared his personal experience receiving the COVID-19 vaccination and encouraged everyone to look into their options.

Committee Chair Report: Snider shared his recent personal experience with having COVID-19.

UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates:

4-H Youth Development – Berger shared that one positive that has come forth from the pandemic is an increase in 4-H program collaboration between various counties. Re-enrollment rates declined 20-40% statewide, 17% in Winnebago County, as a result of the pandemic. Project Days have been taught virtually with Project Boxes of supplies being put together and picked up from the Extension office. Project Days will continue through May and will cover a variety of interests. 4-H participants can take or replicate these projects to the fair. Members of the 4-H Youth Advisory Committee will each teach a workshop for youth in an area of their interest, continuing through July. For 2021, 4-H Summer Camp has been decided to do a day camp for grades 3-5 and a separate day camp for grades 6-8 at Norbert Rich Woods. Berger collaborated with the Youth Advisory Committee and Jody Bezio to develop a virtual Officer Training Escape Room for Club Officer Training. Berger shared her screen to show an example of the training. Berger shared her screen to show the 4-H Facebook page and highlighted some of the events posted on there. Berger requested Binder sit on the Awards & Scholarships interview committee again this year. Binder agreed. Binder made a suggestion for the Meat Animal Sale to be held on a Friday evening instead of a Saturday morning; nearby counties who hold their sale on Friday evenings tend to bring in more funds. Berger agreed to pass the suggestion along to the Meat Animal Board.

Extension Administration and Department Reports:

Staff/Facility/Department Updates – Viau shared that staff are still primarily in a telecommuting mode. Telecommuting plans have been done on a quarterly basis; Viau expects plans to go back to a monthly basis. The James P. Coughlin Center remains closed to the public at this time. Borchart inquired whether Extension will have any requirements of vaccination or base programming on vaccination. Viau explained that due to health privacy laws, he cannot inquire about an employee's vaccination status. Staff are welcome to self-disclose if they'd like, which would be helpful going forward with updating safety plans. Viau is collaborating with Ashley Rolph and Finance to complete a budget carryover of about \$25,000: some funds are for schoolyear-based programs Mandi Dornfeld leads that will continue into the new budget year, and about \$9,000 are for completing the site construction at the new Community Gardens. Binder inquired whether Kim Miller has ordered the new sign for the Community Gardens. Viau confirmed that the process of ordering the sign is in progress.

Area/Region/State Updates: Governor Evers released the budget proposal. The proposal includes an increase in Regional AG and Rural Outreach Specialists.

Comments by Committee Members: Snider expressed his appreciation for Mandi Dornfeld for the support given to him during his experience with COVID-19. Zellmer shared he's been having difficulty connecting to the Zoom Extension Committee Meeting. Viau said he could look into it on his end. Borchart shared help from the Information Systems department may be needed.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, May 20, 2021.

Adjourned: Powers moved to adjourn at 9:52 a.m.; seconded by Zellmer.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson