

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, May 16th, 2019**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Tom Snider, Karen Powers, Tom Borchart, Mike Brunn, and Steve Binder.

**Members Absent:** None.

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Viau, Dana Berger, Mia Ljung, Todd Wenzel, Mandi Dornfeld, Christi Gabriliska, Kim Miller, and Amy Hendrickson.

**Others Present:** Mike Norton (Winnebago County Board supervisor).

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Binder moved to approve the 4/18/2019 minutes; seconded by Brunn. Motion carried 5 -0.

**Program Reports:**

**4-H Youth & Science:** Thompson was absent. Berger reviewed upcoming 4-H programming. This weekend is *Rock Some Mocs*, where youth will be making moccasins and enjoying a program and meal focusing on Native American culture. *Breakfast on the Farm* is June 8, 2019. Berger received a grant through UW-Madison to fund a summer intern. Jack Loken will be starting as the 4-H Intern on May 28. There will be a *Celebrate Diversity* event at the 2019 Winnebago County Fair on August 3, in which various dance troupes will perform routines from a variety of cultures. Preparations have also already begun for *4-H Summer Camp* and *Cloverbud Camp*.

**FoodWise Contract:** Gabriliska distributed and reviewed the 2018 Year-End Report for FoodWise programming in Wisconsin. Kris Soper is currently the only Nutrition Educator in our area due to staff vacancies in other counties. Hannah Phillips was recently hired as the Healthy Communities Coordinator. Local FoodWise planning has been realigning the material they teach in schools so that repeat participants learn new material. Soper has been doing *Grocery Store Tours*, *Food Pantries*, and shadowing educators in other counties to learn about new programming opportunities. She will also begin doing cooking demonstrations to extend teaching at the Food Pantries to have a greater impact with participants. Statewide, FoodWise has reduced involvement with Senior Center meal sites to focus their time and resources on programming where they can have greater impact. FoodWise is focusing on creating incentives for adults to participate, such as gift cards, cutting boards, or reusable grocery bags. Gabriliska requested a motion be opened to renew the FoodWise contract for October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020 in Winnebago County. Powers moved, seconded by Borchart; 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried 5-0.

**Community Gardens:** Miller distributed a handout with a map for the new *Community Garden* site and the related estimated expenses. Miller spoke with Parks, Highway, and Land & Water departments to discuss water drainage issues and possible solutions. The row of cottonwood trees will not be removed at this time due to the plan to create a detention pond later in the future. Some 20'x80' plots may be offered to reduce access needs, reduce expenses, and allow gardeners the option for larger plots. Miller reviewed both anticipated and unknown expenses for the new *Community Garden* site. The new site will give 66% capacity of the current garden, but there is potential for expansion in the future. It is preferred to install the lanes this year to reduce opening delays for the garden next year. Binder requested that Miller put together a presentation with a full estimate at the next Extension Committee Meeting for approval. The proposal would then go to the Personnel & Finance Committee for approval, then to the County Board for approval.

Ljung has a history of working with Goodwill Grows, which shut down in 2017. She has been collaborating with a small community group to identify and map out community gardens in the area: ADVOCAP, Community Foundation, and other volunteers with the goal of building capacity for community gardens within this area. This coalition will identify locations of all community gardens in the area, research other models of community gardens, and search for potential locations for additional gardens. They are also interested in surveying the needs of current gardeners, potential gardeners, and gardeners who have left.

**Committee Chair Report:** Snider shared that he is collaborating with Ljung, Dan Foth, and the Wisconsin Towns Association to provide professional development opportunities on grant writing.

**UW-Extension – Administration:**

**Staff Updates/Area Updates:** Extension is fully staffed. Viau introduced Todd Wenzel as the new Financial Educator in Winnebago County. Wenzel introduced himself. He will begin his part-time position providing Rent Smart and financial education programming. The committee members made brief introductions.

**Department Activities:** Viau introduced the option of moving Extension Committee meetings to Meeting Room D in the future if members would like more space. Extension has been updating building safety and security. The Winnebago County 2020 Budget process is already underway. Contracted service rates for Berger, Ljung, and Thompson will become standardized for 2020. Miller, Dornfeld, and Wenzel are UW staff fully funded by the county. There will be an adjustment of contracted services funds in 2019 due to open positions early in the year. Part of the transition of Extension to UW-Madison requires computer-licensing expenses for county employees and devices to be paid for by the county going forward.

**State Activities:** None.

**Comments by Extension Staff:** None.

**Comments by Committee Members:** Binder expressed the preference to make the Community Garden project a one-time cost. Borchart requested updates on building safety at our next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Adjourned:** Brunn moved to adjourn; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 5-0, 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson