

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, May 17th, 2018
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

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

UW-Extension Staff: Catherine Neiswender, Jody Bezio, Christi Gabriliska, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: None.

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 3/15/2018 minutes; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried **5-0**.

Welcome New Committee Members: Brief introductions from committee members and UW-Extension (UWEX) staff.

Orientation to UW-Extension: Neiswender distributed the Winnebago County UWEX office brochure, the 2017 Winnebago County UWEX Annual Report, and a PowerPoint handout explaining UWEX. Neiswender delivered an overview of the UWEX system, focusing on the “cooperative” aspect where local/county offices partner with other county offices, the state office, and various higher education facilities within the state of Wisconsin. The UWEX system has undergone numerous changes in its 100-year history and continues to change, but the mission remains the same: to extend the resources of the UW System to the farms, families, communities, and youth in Wisconsin. Neiswender reviewed the enlarged slide PowerPoint handout explaining the organizational structure of UWEX.

Program Reports:

4-H Youth Development: Bezio distributed New 4-H Family Folders and highlighted the materials received by new/prospective 4-H participants. 4-H membership is open to individuals from grades K5 through 1 year post-high school. There are currently about 500 youth in the Winnebago County 4-H program. About 300 of those youth show projects at the *Winnebago County Fair*. Some youth are selected to further compete at State, National, and World levels. 4-H focuses on learning by doing: participating in hands-on activities to learn and enhance various life skills and teach others. The Fair is an excellent opportunity for advertising 4-H. Bezio distributed the current 4-H bi-monthly newsletter. The committee is invited to participate in judging the billboards, barns, and Cloverbud projects during the Fair. One long-term goal is to expand access and membership of the 4-H program.

FoodWise County Agreement Letter: Gabriliska explained that FoodWise is a grant-funded program financed by USDA, the Farm Bill, and SNAP. The FoodWise fiscal year runs October 1 – September 30th and requires an annual agreement to continue operating within the county. Gabriliska requested approval by the committee to continue providing county support to deliver FoodWise programming in Winnebago County. This agreement generally provides access to working space, computers, phone, internet, and printing within the Winnebago County UWEX office. FoodWise delivers programming to numerous elementary schools in the community that have at least 50% of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch. The programs teach 6 lessons in each individual 2nd and 5th grade classroom. FoodWise has made 4,551 contacts from October 1st, 2017 – March 2018 in Winnebago County. FoodWise and the Master Gardener program have partnered to teach a *Container Garden* class at Ascend, focusing on how to plant and grow various plants, create meals with the produce, proper food and knife safety, and additional education about nutrition. FoodWise also does programming at food pantries, Salvation Army sites, Boys and Girls Club, Friendship Place, Head Start, and Forward Services. The FoodWise budget is determined by how many people within that county are participating in the Food Share program. Snider entertained a motion to approve the FoodWise County Agreement Letter. Borchart moved; seconded by Powers. Motion carried **5-0**.

Committee Chair Report: Snider had no report to share.

UW-Extension – Administration:

Staff Updates/Area Updates: Neiswender shared that UWEX will host two interns for the summer. Neiswender will be bringing a proposal to the committee in the future regarding the open Community Development and Family Living positions and programming needs within our area.

Department Activities: Mandi Dornfeld has been selected as a Pre-Action Award recipient. Sarah Thompson was the UWEX representative with the Dark Sky event this week. The UWEX office will be closed for staff to attend the *Area 10 Gathering* on June 22.

Budget Transfer – Resolution: Neiswender distributed Budget Transfer handouts, explaining that this simply transfers funds from the labor expense account to the contracted services operational expense account to accommodate a positional change for Dornfeld. This positional change also would allow expanded access to UWEX resources for Dornfeld. Borchart moved to approve, seconded by Powers. Snider took a roll call vote; the motion passed **5-0**.

2018 Contract Amendment – Approval: Neiswender distributed and reviewed the 2018 Contract Amendment, highlighting the change of Dornfeld's county-funded position to a state-funded position. Borchart moved to approve the 2018 Contract Amendment; seconded by Binder. Snider took a roll call vote; the motion passed **5-0**.

2019 Budget Update: UWEX has received their target levy for the 2019 budget. Updates will be needed to incorporate the changes with Dornfeld's position funding. 2019 Budget entries are due in July.

State Activities: No additional report.

Comments by Committee Members: Binder suggested submitting position-funding requests with the 2019 budget approval, as opposed to outside of the budget season.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, June 21st, 2018.

Adjourned: Brunn moved to adjourn; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried **5-0**, 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson