

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Tom Snider, Julie Gordon, Al Long, and George Scherck.

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Kniep, Darrell McCauley, Kim Miller, and Amy Timm.

**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:** Scherck moved to approve the 4/20/2017 minutes; seconded by Gordon. Motion carried **4-0**.

**Program Reports:**

**Horticulture:** Miller delivered an overview of two programs she's been active in. The State used their own program funds for the Master Gardener program to partner with *FoodWise* to deliver a new program in our area: *GardenWise*. *GardenWise* works with children and adults to provide education and hands-on experience planting a container garden to grow their own produce. 14 families are currently involved for a total of 25 participants. Miller is also conducting basic and advanced hands-on *Chainsaw Safety Training* workshops for municipal employees. This training has fostered a great deal of partnership in the community. Miller announced that the *Community Gardens* have officially opened. There are still some 20 x 40-ft plots available for \$15 each.

**Agriculture:** McCauley has been developing a *Grain Marketing Curriculum* to address issues with prices and quantities. This curriculum development involves partnership with various local farm professionals. *Soil Health Field Day* will be held in August. Farmers have gotten a late start with planting this year due to weather. However, no-till and reduced-tillage practices have been helpful in cutting costs and getting crops planted quickly. *Farm Tech Days* will be July 11 – 13, 2017 in Kewaunee County. UWEX will have six different themes on display, including an 80-ft soil pit. McCauley answered various questions regarding milk and grain production and recent trends in purchasing.

**Family Living:** Kniep discussed numerous programs she's been involved with this year. Kniep reviewed the *Landlord Education Project*, which partnered with the Winnebago/Oshkosh Housing Authority, Winnebago Apartment Association, Fair Housing Authority, Winnebago Conflict Resolution Center, and Wisconsin Legal Blanks to update the materials and deliver the workshop back in February. Participant evaluations showed the value of this program for participating landlords. Kniep has been part of a cooperative effort to update the *Rent Smart* program curriculum for tenant training. The first training was conducted in Maine at the end of March and provided valuable feedback. The curriculum has since officially launched and is available online. *Rent Smart Curriculum Trainings* will be offered soon to train other professionals to deliver the Rent Smart program to participants.

**Committee Chair Report:** Snider recently presented at Winneconne High School regarding the *Winnebago County Board Scholarship* process. Snider shared that Nancy Barker has decided to resign from the Winnebago County Board, pending official written notice. A replacement is needed who is also required to be on the Land & Water Committee.

**UW-Extension – Administration:**

**County Board Scholarship Program:** Kniep distributed the 2017 Winnebago County Board Scholarship Program Report compiled by Sarah Thompson. 39 applications were received this year with 9 scholarships awarded.

**Staff Updates:** Kniep shared that she has officially submitted her notice for retirement. Her last day in the office will be June 30, 2017. There are many tasks Kniep will be working on up until her last day, including early completion of the 2018 Budget. Neiswender has applied for one of the Area Extension Director positions within the nEXT Generation reorganization. If she is accepted, this will mean more change for the UWEX office as of July 1, 2017. Applications for the *FoodWise* position were reviewed last Friday. Interviews will be held next week.

**Department Activities:** Kniep distributed and reviewed a news article about one of the Winnebago 4-H families.

**nEXT Generation:** Timm distributed the 45-page Recommendations on Institutes and Centers for Feedback referenced in a recent nEXT Generation Memo. Kniep, McCauley, and Miller reviewed some of the main points from the document. Kniep encouraged everyone to review the recommendations and submit feedback by tomorrow, May 19.

**Comments by Committee Members:** None.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Adjourned:** Snider declared the meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Timm