

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, May 19th, 2016
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Snider, Alvin Long, George Scherck, and Nancy Barker.

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Kris Soper, Catherine Neiswender, Evan Groth, Mandi Dornfeld, 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 3/17/ 2016 minutes and 4/6/2016 minutes; seconded by Barker.
Motion carried **4-0**.

Program Reports:

UWEX Programs - Overview: Kniep distributed the “2015 Winnebago County UW-Extension Annual Report”, “UW-Extension Office Brochure” and a Cooperative Extension publication, providing an overview of Cooperative Extension in Winnebago County and Wisconsin. The committee recommended a similar presentation for the entire County Board.

Community Resource Development: Neiswender gave an overview of her role in CRD and Chad Cook’s role with Natural Resources. Neiswender described the *Neighborhood Outreach* program she is working on in Menasha. One of the foci of this program is relationship-building between neighbors. Quality of life is increased by social capital (neighbors know, trust, and connect with each other) and collective efficacy (empowering neighbors to do what they can for themselves first, and then approach organizations). UWEX received a grant for this program that is funding a temporary employee to do work with two neighborhoods in the Menasha. Neiswender distributed the “Neighborhood Partners Capacity Building Approach, 2016” and “Neighborhood Partners Network” handouts.

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP): Soper gave an overview of WNEP. WNEP is funded by *Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)*, which also defines the program’s educational requirements/guidelines. Soper has been working with schools to teach about different foods and nutrition through educational reading and food sampling. Groth highlighted his work with the *ELL (English Language Learners) Job Club*, working primarily with refugees. The refugees in the program are from diverse backgrounds, including Congo, Cuba, Venezuela, and China. The WNEP portion of this program teaches how to save money for food, develop healthy American eating styles, incorporate variety into diet, food safety and storage, and grocery shopping and pricing.

Family Living Programs: Kniep distributed an overview of the Family Living programs which focuses on three primary subject areas: financial security, healthy living, and human development and family relationships. Dornfeld has been focusing primarily on the family relationship area. Dornfeld highlighted her work with *The Real Happy Hour* program and *Parentetical* and briefly explained the programs. Dornfeld also gave an overview of *Trauma-Informed Care* and *Adverse Child Experiences (TIC-ACES)*. Dornfeld and Kniep are both involved in this program, which aims to mitigate the damage from trauma. Kniep and Dornfeld are also involved in the *POINT Initiative* to reduce the number of families living in poverty. Kniep has been part of updating the *Rent Smart* curriculum, and there is a great number of people interested in learning the new curriculum.

Action Item – Budget Transfer of \$4,500 from Contracted Services to Temporary Employees for “Neighborhood Outreach East-Metro Regional Grant”: The temporary county employee hired for the *Neighborhood Outreach* grant is fully funded by the grant. Because the employee is a county employee instead of a contracted employee, funds need to be transferred from the Contracted Services account category to the Wages account category. Snider opened a motion to approve the transfer; Scherck moved, seconded by Long; motion carried 4-0.

Committee Chair Report:

Meeting Dates/Times: Snider asked for discussion on committee’s preference of meeting time/days. Newly appointed committee member Julie Gordon is unable to attend morning meetings. Long moved to continue the 9:00am meetings on the third Thursday of each month; motion carried 4-0. Snider will speak with Gordon and the county board chair about the decision.

UW-Extension – Administration: Kniep shared that a Rain Garden is being installed in front of the JP Coughlin Center as an education and demonstration piece. The display board for meeting schedules is fully functional.

nEXT Generation: Kniep distributed an invitation and agenda to each committee member for the *Executive Sponsor Committee Visit* at UW-Fox Valley from 2:00-4:00pm on 6/2/2016. nEXT Generation currently has Winnebago County clustered with Outagamie, Calumet, and Waupaca counties. The current plan is to maintain a UWEX office in each county but with different staff patterns.

WACEC State Meeting: The 2016 WACEC meeting is 6/20/2016 and 6/21/2016 in Wausau. Kniep reviewed the materials sent to the committee members about the WACEC meeting and distributed two additional pieces.

Staff Updates: Kniep shared that there has been a failed search for filling the WNEP Coordinator position. The position will be updated and posted again.

Department Activities: Kniep passed around photos of Snider and Darrell McCauley from their Washington D.C visit to represent Wisconsin at the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference. Kniep shared information from Sarah Thompson on the 2016 County Board Scholarship program. Winnebago County UWEX has a Civil Rights Review this year. The review will demonstrate how UWEX complies with Civil Rights and delivers programming to various demographics.

Comments by Committee Members: Long expressed that as a new member, he is very appreciative of the UWEX and program overviews and for all of the work that UWEX does in the community.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, June 16th, 2016.

Adjourned: Barker moved to adjourn; seconded by Long. Motion carried **4-0**, 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Timm