

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, May 20, 2021
James P. Coughlin Center - Room A

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

Members Absent: Karen D. Powers.

Extension Winnebago County Staff: Chris Viau and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: Mike Domke and Matt Neuman (Winnebago County Fair Association).

Meeting Called to Order at 9:01 a.m. by Tom Snider.

Comments from the Public Related to Items on the Agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes: Binder moved to approve the 4/15/2021 minutes; seconded by Zellmer. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Safety Share: Borchart reminded everyone to appropriately hydrate and wear sun protection with the upcoming warmer weather and sunshine. The COVID-19 pandemic continues with ongoing safety concerns and updates.

Committee Chair Report: Snider and others recently attended the Semi-Annual Safety Walk at UW-Fox Valley. Snider expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet and have conversations with Executive Doemel and other Winnebago County and Outagamie County Extension Committee members.

Winnebago County Fair Association: Domke explained the fair entry system is now open. Fairest of the Fair was elected April 17th: Jodie Weyland was the winner; Eden Chapin was 1st runner up; Adia Kolell was 2nd runner up. Weyland has requested to present at an upcoming County Board meeting. Discussion ensued regarding possible dates. The Fair Association and 4-H are making adjustments to the fair with COVID-19 concerns in mind; a higher proportion of funds went to health/safety accommodations than usual. All 2020 contracts were carried over to 2021. Binder encouraged the Fair Association to pursue rescheduling the Meat Animal Sale for Saturday. Discussion ensued regarding ticket prices and entertainment options for future years. Zellmer expressed his desire for additional county funds to be allocated for the fair; Snider encouraged Zellmer to draft a resolution for allocating more funds to the fair. Binder encouraged presenting the request during budget season. Domke and committee members discussed budget request ideas. Cloverbud judging will be included in the fair. Snider encouraged all committee members to volunteer to judge.

UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates:

FoodWise Annual Contract – Gabrilska rescheduled to present at the June meeting. Viau explained the process of the FoodWise Annual Contract.

Extension Administration and Department Reports:

Facility Updates – Viau shared that staff are working towards reopening the JPCC meeting rooms to public users beginning July 6th. Part of the reopening process will be updating and reinforcing practices/procedures. Viau is investigating options for integrating technology updates to allow for virtual and hybrid meetings. There may be a piece in the 2022 budget process to accommodate these updates. Discussion ensued regarding potential need for additional staff to support meeting room scheduling, cleaning, and technology assistance. Viau announced that the JPCC rear building entrances will remain locked going forward to comply with facility and safety recommendations. The main entrance is the only entrance accessible to the public going forward. The Community Garden Leadership Committee is taking over responsibilities for the Community Garden as Kim Miller transitions to her new position. The water has been installed and signs are being developed for instructions.

Staff and Department Updates – Viau has begun necessary steps in the hiring process for the Horticulture Educator position. Viau will share more details as they become available. Executive Doemel has requested Department Heads work to develop a post-pandemic plan for remote work when applicable.

Area/Region/State Updates – Extension staff will be returning to the office effective July 1st. University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is also expected to develop a post-pandemic plan for remote work as

applicable. Hiring expectations will include a strong preference for virtual teaching ability in addition to in-person teaching.

Comments by Committee Members: None.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, June 17, 2021.

Adjourned: Binder moved to adjourn at 10:16 a.m.; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson