

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, July 15, 2021
James P. Coughlin Center - Room A/B

Members Present: Steve Binder, Doug Zellmer, and Karen D. Powers.

Members Absent: Tom Snider and Tom Borchart.

Extension Winnebago County Staff: Chris Viau and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: Mike Norton (Winnebago County Board), Jeff Gilderson-Duwe (Oshkosh Public Library), Brian Kopetsky (Elisha D. Smith Public Library - Menasha), Amanda O'Neal (Winneconne Public Library), Julie Stobbe (Carter Memorial Library - Omro), Gretchen Raab (Neenah Public Library), and Clairlyn Sommersmith (Winnefox Library System).

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 a.m. by Steve Binder.

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

Approval of Minutes: Zellmer moved to approve the 6/17/2021 minutes; seconded by Binder. Motion carried 3–0.

Safety Share: Borchart was absent; no report to share.

Committee Chair Report: Snider was absent; no report to share.

Winnefox Library System Annual Report and Budget Review/Approval: Sommersmith distributed packets containing the 2021 Winnebago County Libraries review and the 2022 Winnebago County Library Services Levy Request packet. Library staff introduced themselves as they delivered their reviews. Oshkosh Public Library staff helped support other municipality offices and voting efforts during the pandemic, in addition to adapting their material distribution to meet public needs during the pandemic. Elisha D. Smith Public Library (Menasha) continued to offer regular services via curbside pickup. They also developed strategies for delivering programs virtually. Winneconne Public Library developed take-home crafts for children, continuing this summer due to the huge success. They've done a lot of virtual programming, curbside pickup options, and trying new ideas for adult programming. Carter Memorial Library (Omro) also saw an increase in curbside pickup. Additionally, they offered pickup crafts and increased access to electronic circulation options. Neenah Public Library provided new services over the past year: notary services, faxing, copying, and book bundles in addition to curbside pickup. Raab showed some examples of take-home project kits they developed for children home more during the pandemic, and demand has continued.

Library staff shared examples of gratitude and stories of patrons expressing their appreciation for library services throughout the pandemic. Library staff expressed an overall theme of resilience by finding new ways to support the community during the pandemic. Staff expressed their appreciation to the community for their continued patronage and to the Winnebago County Health Department for their guidance to keep staff and patrons safe.

Sommersmith reviewed the 2022 Winnebago County Library Services Levy Request document. Financial calculations are based on circulation numbers, which were affected by the pandemic in 2020. Library funding is split amongst projects for a variety of circulation methods: physical materials, digital materials, virtual programming, take-home projects, etc. The Winnefox Library System staff requested the committee's support for the 2022 Levy Request; **Zellmer moved to support the 2022 Winnebago County Library Services Levy Request; seconded by Powers. Motion carried 3–0.**

UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates: Viau directed committee members to review the July Extension in Review document for program/educator updates.

Extension Administration and Department Reports:

2022 Budget Proposal – Hendrickson distributed the 2022 Winnebago County UW-Extension DRAFT Budget Proposal. Viau reviewed the budget document to highlight changes for the committee.

Facility Updates – Staff who occupy cubicles have been given the flexibility to use other spaces within the office to allow for physical spacing and focus time for projects as needed. JPCC Meeting Rooms have been open to JPCC and Winnebago County departments and will be opening to other users at the end of July.

Staff and Department Updates – Telecommuting agreements for state staff expired on July 6th. Staff have returned to the office being their primary work location, and have resumed Flexible Professional Scheduling to meet programming and schedule needs. The Horticulture Educator position has been posted and extended until July 20th. Some position expectations are anticipated due to changes in the relationship between Extension and the Master Gardener Association, changes in programming foci, and the skillset of the hired applicant.

Area/Region/State Updates – Calumet and Waupaca counties both have Agriculture Educator vacancies. Governor Evers did approve the 2022-2023 biennial budget. There will be a \$1 million increase both years for additional Extension Specialist positions and for a 2% pay increase for staff each year.

Comments by Committee Members: Committee members expressed appreciation for the presentations from the library staff and for the draft Extension budget.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, August 19, 2021.

Adjourned: Powers moved to adjourn at 10:42 a.m.; seconded by Zellmer. Motion carried 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson