

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, September 17th, 2020**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:** Tom Snider, Steve Binder, Tom Borchart, Doug Zellmer, and Karen D. Powers.

**Members Absent:** None.

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Viau, Todd Wenzel, Mia Ljung, Mandi Dornfeld, Sarah Thompson, Kim Miller, and Amy Hendrickson.

**Others Present:** Mike Norton (Winnebago County Board) and Chris Acy (Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance).

**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 8/20/2020 minutes; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 5-0.

**Safety Share:** Borchart reminded everyone that there are many safety decisions we're all having to make regarding the current pandemic.

**Committee Chair Report:** Snider requested we check into whether we can use the chat feature in Zooms due to the possibility of there being a walking quorum. Hendrickson confirmed with Sue Ertmer that the chat feature needs to be disabled to avoid violating open meeting regulations. Viau will change the settings for future meetings. Snider and Powers discussed opinions regarding when it is acceptable for board members to abstain from voting.

**Diversity and Inclusion Committee Resolution:** The Human Services Board requested the resolution be presented at this committee before going on to the County Board. Dornfeld shared her screen for attendees to see the resolution. Hendrickson emailed a copy of the resolution to the committee members. The resolution is to establish an official Diversity Affairs Commission. Dornfeld has been in collaboration with Beth Roberts (Beth Culp), the founder of the group. Dornfeld is serving as a technical advisor. Diversity encompasses various groups, not just race. The resolution proposes a change in the size and scope of the committee, keeping the focus the same. Snider requested the amended resolution be shared with the committee and revisited at the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with the goal of presenting the resolution to the County Board on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Borchart requested the Menasha Health Department be approached regarding the development of this committee. Borchart stated his support would depend upon the support by the Menasha Health Department. Binder stated the City of Oshkosh is also forming their own diversity committee. Beth Roberts is the liaison between the two committees. Binder suggested that Shiloh Ramos be the one to pick the county board and citizen members.

**Program Reports:**

**Aquatic Invasive Species:** Acy introduced himself to the committee. The Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance is a non-profit organization serving the fox-wolf watershed region (Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Outagamie, and Winnebago counties). The Pilot Prevention Network Grant and a DNR Grant have been funding their work. Acy shared his screen for attendees to view his presentation regarding the Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Clean Boats, Clean Waters is a project where program interns trace connectivity between boats visiting different lakes and have conversations with boaters in the field. AIS Snapshot Day investigates which aquatic invasive species are present in different locations. AIS Monitoring locates and tracks aquatic invasive species to combat spread. Habitattitude focuses on educating pet owners on how to rehome animals they can no longer care for instead of releasing them into the wild. Outreach and education are another important focus of the AIS Program. Virtual education and outreach have been implemented during the pandemic. They've also developed the Winnebago System Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan. All 5 counties have supported and requested the AIS Network Pilot Program continue.

**UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates:** Viau directed the committee to the September 2020 Extension Winnebago County Review document for summaries of educator program updates.

**Finance:** Wenzel shared his screen to review documents sent to the committee via email. Rent Smart has been successfully launched virtually. The virtual program has seen participants from throughout the state and has seen high demand. The Winnebago County Eviction Prevention Task Force has focused on addressing eviction

concerns during the pandemic and ongoing problems in Winnebago County. There is a real concern regarding what eviction rates will look like once the moratorium ends in December. The task force has developed numerous resource documents for landlords and tenants during the pandemic. Wenzel is also working with the statewide program, Youth Forward Wisconsin Children's Savings Accounts. This program focuses on every child from newborn to age 18 having a Children's Savings Account (CSA) where seed deposits can be made by non-profit donations specifically for post-secondary education. Wenzel reviewed statistics regarding rental costs and income needed to afford housing. Check out the Extension Winnebago County's Human Development & Relationships and COVID-19 webpages for more information and resources on Wenzel's work. Norton requested Wenzel contact Bill Topel with the Human Resources Board to give this same presentation.

**Community Development:** Ljung drew the committee's attention to her program update summary in the document for further details. Her organizational partner, Fit Oshkosh, had to dissolve due to the pandemic, so focus has been on securing new partners. Regional People of Color Business Association rebranded and is now called the ColorBOLD Business Association. The Appleton Public Library received the Small Businesses Big Impact grant. Ljung and her Fond du Lac partner focused this summer on reaching out to business owners. Ljung has gotten involved with New North, who has reignited their commitment to inclusivity. She has also been collaborating with farming organizations to gather and analyze data. Ljung has also been involved with discussions of racial equity with coworkers. Ljung expressed her interest in being involved with the Diversity Committee once officially established if the committee believes it would be a good fit. Ljung encouraged committee members to share any suggestions for community partners she could connect with.

#### **Extension – Administration/Department Reports:**

**Staff Updates:** Viau shared that Extension state staff are still primarily telecommuting, but there are opportunities for staff to occasionally work in-office by going through appropriate channels and safety guidelines.

**Facility & Department Updates:** The JPCC building is still closed to the public with departments available by appointment only. Through discussions with other department heads, the consensus is to coordinate reopening the building with when the DNR Service Center reopens to the public. The water project with the Community Gardens is expected to be completed by county departments. Due to the project being done in-house, cost is expected to be low enough to not require requesting additional funds. The cost for updating the sign is expected to be around \$700 and may also be covered without requiring additional funds.

**Area/Region/State Updates:** With UW-Madison transitioning to new Zoom licensing, county support staff now have access to the same professional accounts as the educators. The result is that county administrative staff can now assist with hosting and co-hosting zooms, which will allow educators to focus more on program delivery during zooms while administrative staff can take care of the technical aspects: controlling chat, muting, sharing screens, launching polls, etc.

**Comments by Committee Members:** Powers expressed her appreciation for the committee accommodating virtual meetings. Binder requested the next agenda include an item discussing the naming of the Community Gardens before the sign is ordered.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Adjourned:** Binder moved to adjourn; seconded by Powers. Motion carried 5-0, 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson