

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, September 19th, 2019**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Tom Snider, Steve Binder, Mike Brunn, and Tom Borchart.

**Members Absent:** Karen Powers.

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Viau, Dana Berger, Kim Miller, John Thompson, and Amy Hendrickson.

**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:** Binder moved to approve the 8/15/2019 minutes; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 4-0.

**Safety:** Borchart reminded everyone that the days are getting shorter and it's getting darker when kids are on their way to and from school. He encouraged everyone to be cautious and focused, and not to pass busses stopped with their lights on. Borchart also brought up safety regarding mosquitos. There is a dangerous illness being transmitted via mosquitos that has killed 3 people in Michigan. It is recommended to avoid outdoor activities around dawn and dusk until after the first hard frost of the fall. Snider reminded everyone to utilize eye and hearing protection while mowing lawns to prevent injury.

**Program Reports:**

**Agriculture:** Thompson reviewed programming and events with which he has been involved. Thompson participated in a Nutrient Technology Field Day, a formal Pasture Walk, and several additional informal pasture walks in July. August included the Fall Forage Field Day. September has included a Sheep Educational Meeting, a Farm Management Meeting, where he provided a Crop Update, and a Cohort Training for new Extension employees. He will be involved with the Resilient Farm Conference in December. Upcoming programming yet to be scheduled includes Pesticide Applicator Training, Weed Management Class, and possibly Tractor Safety. Fox Valley Technical College has their own Farm Safety course and their own farm equipment for conducting it. Participants have to pay for the course, but they receive college credits for completion. Thompson has conducted multiple farm visits and has been meeting with various farmers to address their needs and concerns, including those considering selling their dairy cows due to the market.

**Horticulture:** Miller shared updates regarding the new Community Garden site. The first planned cover crop was unable to be planted in the spring due to the wet weather. A wheat cover crop was planted recently for this upcoming season. Miller will be going out to plan plots with Mel Leet from the Land & Water Dept. The Highway Dept. will not be able to start their work for another two weeks. Wisconsin Public Service topped the trees earlier this summer to provide clearance around the utility lines. The Highway Dept. will remove the debris soon. Miller explained the grading and other work planned to divert water. The community garden committee will meet soon to start planning the transition to the new site. Binder advised Miller that there is not funding in budget to remove the house or barn from that property. Borchart requested the information Miller & Mia Ljung collect from the Community Gardens Survey regarding operational policies and procedures of other community gardens in the area be able to others. Miller will be using this information to advise operation of the new garden and troubleshoot issues they've experienced in the past.

Miller distributed the brochure for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Urban Forestry Workshop. The training in our area is near maximum capacity already. Attendance has been difficult to attain some years. Miller estimates that attendance is affected by topics on a given year and locations of other available trainings. Miller resigned her leadership of this workshop this year. She will still be involved, but stepped down due to time requirements for another conference and the new Community Garden site. After much discussion, she will no longer be hosting the Chainsaw Safety Trainings due to their success in training other professionals to be able to host their own trainings. Miller stepped up to plan and lead the Landscape Professionals Conference March 3 & 4, 2020 due to the open Horticulture Educator position in Brown County, who usually leads this conference. Miller reviewed the topics of the Landscape Professionals Conference. She is collaborating with Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association (WLCA) for this event. Promotional materials will be distributed once speakers are confirmed.

**Committee Chair Report:** Snider shared that the budget hearing went well.

**UW-Extension – Administration:**

**Staff Updates/Area Updates:** Nancy Wilkinson joined the office as the Temporary Administrative Associate while Ashley Rolph is on FMLA. The FoodWise positions have already closed and completed the screening process. Christi Gabrilska will present more information once candidates have been selected. Our office is still in the process of coordinating with Human Resources regarding the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Coordinator role to assist with this portion of Mandi Dornfeld's programming. Viau will collaborate with Snider if additional help is needed moving this position along.

**Department Activities:** None reported.

**State Activities:** Viau also participated in the Cohort training for his new role as Area Extension Director. This has been a great opportunity to learn about the various resources available to staff due to the transition to UW-Madison. Viau is also currently busy with completing mid-year check-ins with staff.

**Comments by Extension Staff:** None.

**Comments by Committee Members:** None.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Adjourned:** Borchart moved to adjourn; seconded by Binder. Motion carried 4-0, 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson