

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, September 21st, 2017
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Snider, Julie Gordon, George Scherck, Al Long, and Steve Binder.

UW-Extension Staff: Catherine Neiswender, Mandi Dornfeld, Kim Miller, Darrell McCauley, Jody Bezio, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: None.

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: Long moved to approve the 8/18/2017 minutes; seconded by Gordon. Motion carried **5-0**.

Program Reports:

Family Living: Dornfeld distributed and summarized a handout about Childhood Adversity in Wisconsin. Dornfeld will be working with local libraries to teach about ACEs and childhood adversity. Winnebago County UWEX is one of the leaders in ACEs-related education in WI. Dornfeld distributed and briefly reviewed a handout about Protective Factors. Dornfeld attended a training last week to become 1 of 820 certified Protective Factors trainers in the U.S. As part of this training opportunity, Dornfeld has received a grant to cover all expenses for her training and for implementing this program in 2018. Protective Factors will be taught to other professionals to use in their work with members of the community. The purpose of this program is to help families under stress before they are in a crisis. Dornfeld completed a training yesterday that certified 37 professionals to deliver the Takin Care of You program in their communities. This month's Rent Smart workshop has 35 participants.

Horticulture: Miller distributed and reviewed a Growing Goodness handout. This program was a collaboration between Master Gardeners and FoodWise to teach family gardening classes. Children learned about fruits and vegetables, parents planted a container garden, and families learned recipes to use the produce they grew. This program was new this year, and they are hoping to be able to extend it to seniors. Funds came from the State Master Gardener Program. Leftover items from the Growing Goodness classes were reused for a Horticulture Therapy class in Madison. A key learning point was how to deliver a program to people with various disabilities or behavioral issues. 25 people completed the hands-on Chainsaw Safety Training in June 2017. The majority of attendees were public works employees who don't regularly use chainsaws. Miller delivered positive feedback about the value of the training. Miller notified the committee that we've recently confirmed identification of Jumping Worm in Winnebago County. Jumping Worms are an invasive species that destroys soil composition and mulch and spreads quickly. There have been 3 species confirmed. Miller showed the committee a sample of the worms, educating them on their characteristics and suggestions for prevention. Due to the lack of public education and notification about this invasive species, Miller is expecting to send out a press release in our community soon.

Committee Chair Report: Snider shared that the Cooperative Extension Dean's Office will be recognizing him for his 5 years of service. Nancy Barker will also be recognized for her 25 years of service. The recognition of Nancy Barker in the UWEX Rain Garden is still in progress.

UW-Extension – Administration: Neiswender expressed her support and appreciation for UWEX staff for the ways they've been working together after the departure of Chris Kniep as the Department Head and implementation of Neiswender's Area Extension Director position.

Bezio shared that 4-H Key Award winners will receive a commendation at the next County Board Meeting. Scherck suggested a plaque or framed certificate as the commendation.

Dornfeld explained that UWEX has taken on another Family Living Intern. Melissa Blade-Haight started 2 weeks ago and has been doing very well.

Dornfeld shared praise for the meeting room hearing loop that our office recently received from a meeting attendee on one of our comment cards.

2018 Budget Transfer Approval: Neiswender distributed a Budget Transfer form and proposal to transfer \$12,000 from the Capital Outlay account to the Small Equipment account. Funds were originally dedicated to building a Hoop House,

but the project is being abandoned due to increasing costs. The funds transfer will allow furniture and technology updates to Meeting Room D. Snider opened a motion to approve the transfer; Scherck moved, seconded by Long; motion carried 5 – 0. The transfer approval goes before the Personnel and Finance Committee on October 5 at 8:00am. Binder offered to attend with Dornfeld.

Comments by Committee Members: Scherck inquired how Neiswender's new role as Area Extension Director is going. Neiswender shared some of her experiences thus far and is encouraged by the support from the county offices.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will take place on Thursday, October 19th, 2017 at 9:00 am.

Adjourned: Gordon moved to adjourn, seconded by Binder. Motion carried **5-0**, 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson