

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, October 18th, 2018
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Snider, Michael Brunn, Tom Borchart, Steve Binder, and Karen Powers.

Members Absent: None.

UW-Extension Staff: Catherine Neiswender, Jody Bezio, Mandi Dornfeld, Sarah Thompson, Kris Soper, Melissa Haight, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: None.

Meeting called to order at 8:58 a.m. by Tom Snider.

Comments from the Public related to items on the agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes: Binder moved to approve the 9/20/2018 minutes; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried **5-0**.

Program Reports:

FoodWise: Soper shared her follow-up regarding Powers' inquiry about spices not being covered by SNAP. According to Soper's inquiry with the USDA, SNAP will cover spices only if the spice container has a nutritional label on it. Over the past year, Soper met with over 700 children and 700 adults. Her programming reached a total of 1,409 people in Winnebago County. Programming in the schools reaches 2nd grade and 5th grade students. Programming is only offered in schools in which 50% or more students qualify for free or reduced lunch.

4-H Program: Bezio shared a PowerPoint review of 4H, including the organizational structure, changes due to the nEXT Generation reorganization, Civil Rights Compliance Report recommendations, and the 4-H Pledge and overall goal of continued growth and development. Ultimately, 4H falls under USDA but is managed by Cooperative Extension. The 4-H Program Coordinator is the "keeper of the clover", the legal authority enforcing federal and state policy. Bezio shared a brief 4-H Grows Here video reviewing the history of the program. 4-H provides belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity through live skill development, experiential learning, and youth/adult partnerships in the formats of community clubs, school programs, and camps. Bezio distributed the Civil Rights Compliance Review Report and reviewed the recommendations listed. Bezio reviewed the demographics of 4-H in Winnebago County: of the nearly 32,000 school-age children in Winnebago County, a total of 867 youth participated in 4H programming in Winnebago County in 2016-2017 (508 in community clubs, 37 in camps, and another 322 in school programs that don't meet requirements within the new reporting structure). Bezio distributed a PowerPoint handout explaining demographics in further detail. 4-H adult volunteers contributed over 13,000 hours to teaching and managing programming for community clubs. 329 youth reported contributing over 5,000 hours. Bezio distributed a 4-H Project Information handout with a variety of areas of interest within 4-H.

Bezio shared that Winnebago County is in the process of hiring for a permanent 4-H Program Coordinator position. Bezio has decided not to apply, so her interim position will end on December 31st. She plans to be involved in training her replacement once one is chosen. Bezio distributed a copy of the message she sent to the 4-H Leader's Board explaining her decision. Board members and UWEX staff discussed concerns regarding workload, staffing, and resources. On behalf of the board, Snider expressed appreciation for Bezio's willingness to step into her role, the work she's done, and the work she will continue to do.

Bezio also shared that our local 4-H community has recently been affected by a completed youth suicide. The UWEX office has been very involved in the aftermath to organize events and communicate resources available for support to youth, families, and communities.

Community Garden Lease: Neiswender distributed the Land Use Agreement for the 2019 Community Gardens, which is an extension that ends May 2020. Snider opened a motion to verbally approve the agreement. Brunn moved to accept; seconded by Binder. Motion carried **5-0**.

Committee Chair Report: Snider had no report to share.

UW-Extension – Administration: Neiswender shared that she has accepted a new position as Assistant Dean to the Northern Zone of UW-Extension. Her new position started Monday, October 15th. Neiswender will maintain her

involvement with the 2019 Budget approval process and hiring for open positions. She is partnering with Jessica Beckendorf, who will be filling in as Area Extension Director until a replacement is hired.

2019 Budget Update: The 2019 Budget will be decided upon at the end of October at the Winnebago County Budget Hearings.

Staff Updates/Area Updates: Final interviews for the 4-H Educator position will be on October 31st. Brunn tentatively agreed to participate in the interviews if the Budget hearings conclude in time.

Department Activities: Dornfeld completed her certification early for delivering the Sources of Strength program in community schools. Neiswender shared that our office has been experiencing a plethora of technological issues with the new staff laptops purchased over the last two years. Due to the impact these issues have had on educator programming, our office may need to purchase replacements.

State Activities: December 4 – 6 will be the statewide All-Colleague Conference that provides opportunities for further learning and networking. WACEC will now be managed by Wisconsin Counties Association. Board members can expect to hear more in the future.

Comments by Committee Members: Binder requested Snider to contact Patty Francour on behalf of UWEX to encourage resolution of the staff laptop issues.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, November 15th, 2018.

Adjourned: Borchart moved to adjourn; seconded by Binder. Motion carried **5-0**, 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson