

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Tom Snider, Julie Gordon, Al Long, George Scherck, and Nancy Barker.

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Kniep, Darrell McCauley, Sarah Thompson, and Amy Timm.

**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:** Long moved to approve the 9/15/2016 minutes; seconded by Barker. Motion carried **5-0**.

**Program Reports:**

**Agriculture:** McCauley reviewed the *Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension (ANRE) Conference* he's been attending this week. *Soil Health Field Day* was August 10, 2016 and had about 65 participants. This event provides hands-on demonstrations and education about the benefits of no-till practices and using cover crops in contrast to tilling and leaving fields bare over the winter. This education is geared toward how to protect both the water around farm fields and the soil itself. The Rainfall Simulator was very educational as a demonstration of the results from various field management practices. McCauley emphasized that the best way to educate farmers is to build relationships with them, noting that trust is key for farmers to hear and consider new practices. McCauley has been working with a group of Hmong individuals building a Hoop House to provide educational support and build relationships with the Hmong population. McCauley has also been partnering with *Feeding America*, concentrating on food safety. *Farm Resiliency* is another area McCauley has been focusing on, helping to host a conference for 70 AG Lenders, Farm Managers, and other AG professionals. Additionally, McCauley has been partnering with veterinary schools to provide dairy education on a variety of topics.

**4-H Youth and Science:** Thompson stated that 4-H charters are currently coming in, and re-enrollment is ongoing through November 20, 2016. The *4-H Family Banquet and Alumni Reunion* is this Saturday, October 22, 2016. Thompson distributed "prop-copters," one of the projects at *National Youth Science Day* on October 5, 2016. Drones were also featured in activities this year. The event was a success and has recruited interest of additional individuals in the community. *Cloverbud Blast* incorporated a variety of fun crafts and activities on October 9, 2016. 7 new Explorers were recognized, with several family members in attendance for the ceremony. *Lego Club* has been going well and is growing, with one new 4-H family and 6-7 first-time attendees at the last meeting. UWEX will be hosting a VOAT/DOTS event on November 12, 2016 that includes a Value of a Tree (VOAT) session and a Digital Observation Technology Skills (DOTS) session. Thompson has also partnered with UnitedHealthcare in training older youth to deliver health-related programs to other 4-H members.

**Committee Chair Report:** Snider attended the *Wisconsin Counties Association Conference* in September, where he spoke with Chancellor Sandeen and met Interim Dean Karl Martin. Snider requested to work with Kniep on drafting an agenda for a meeting with Chancellor Sandeen.

**UW-Extension – Administration:**

**Staff Updates:** Kniep shared that there is a meeting scheduled for November 21, 2016 to discuss the WNEP Coordinator position that remains open. WNEP has changed titles and will be called FoodWise going forward.

**Department Activities:** Kniep announced that McCauley, Thompson, Kim Miller, and Ashley Rolph are providing leadership for our *Civil Rights Review* on Tuesday, November 15, 2016. The *Civil Rights Review* will include a presentation highlighting how UWEX works to serve and provide programming to underserved audiences and protected classes in Winnebago County. A summary will be delivered to the Extension Committee after the review date.

Kayla Oberstadt, Catherine Neiswender, Chad Cook, and Kniep are participating in *nEXT Generation* planning teams. All County Board members will be receiving nEXT Generation updates via email or mail from Timm as they are distributed to UWEX. Kniep accepted an appointment to the *University Committee* in Madison.

Due to increasing meeting room usage at the J.P. Coughlin Center, the training space inside the USDA/Land & Water departments is being converted to an additional meeting room space. This will be called Meeting Room D and will primarily be reserved for AG-related meetings during business hours.

**Chancellor's Award:** Kniep attended the *Chancellor's Award Ceremony* recognizing Tom Widener, David Murphy, and Alan Buechel on September 22, 2016. It was a very special event where Widener was honored with the *Friend and Advocate Award* from UWEX.

**Budget Review – Monday, October 31, 2016:** Kniep will be presenting the *2017 UWEX Budget Proposal* on Monday, October 31, 2016. Kniep explained the financial breakdown in the budget proposal for county employees and the contracted state employees. There will also be a \$12,000 line item to build a *Hoop House* on the J.P. Coughlin Center grounds for educational purposes. Any questions regarding the budget should be directed to Kniep.

**Comments by Committee Members:** Barker shared comments about her appreciation for Calumet County and their 4-H program.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**Adjourned:** Scherck moved to adjourn; seconded by Long. Motion carried **5-0**, 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Timm