

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, November 19th, 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

Members Absent: None.

Extension Winnebago County Staff: Chris Viau, Dana Berger, Mandi Dornfeld, and John Thompson.

Others Present: Mike Norton (Winnebago County Board Supervisor).

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: Powers moved to approve the 10/15/2020 minutes; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 5–0.

Safety Share: ThedaCare released a Community Leader COVID-19 Brief, which was shared with committee members by County Executive, Mark Harris. Snider and Borchart requested this document be shared with the committee for the December meeting.

Committee Chair Report: Binder has agreed to put his name on the updated Resolution to Create a Diversity Affairs Commission. They will have the original sponsors weigh in on the resolution.

Action Item: Resolution to Create a Diversity Affairs Commission – Addition of Co-Sponsors and Progress Report – Viau forwarded the resolution to Corporation Counsel for review and requested the Clerk's office add it to the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors December meeting agenda. Dornfeld announced they have established a monthly meeting the second Tuesday of each month, from 3:00pm - 4:30pm via Zoom for the group to continue working while awaiting formalization. Snider requested that Dornfeld check with Corporation Counsel regarding regulations and requirements to avoid a walking quorum at the meetings.

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

Agriculture: Thompson has been participating in Zoom meetings with other Northeast Wisconsin counties to provide Crisis on the Farm webinars. The UW Crops & Soils program is formulating their plan of work. Due to COVID-19, Pesticide Applicator Training has been transitioned to an online format for 2021. Thompson has been collaborating with Berger and the Meat Animal Board president to deliver Extension educational programming for members. Thompson has been working with the UW Livestock program to develop webinars for educators. Thompson recently attended Crisis on the Farm and Pest Management webinars and plans to attend several upcoming webinars as well. He's been working with Grassworks regarding managed grazing. Thompson has been doing a lot of phone, email, and virtual consultations with producers since in-person farm visits are not currently occurring. Zellmer inquired regarding some typical farming practices in Winnebago County.

Human Development & Relationships/Health & Well-Being: Dornfeld has been busy planning programming for early 2021 through continuing digital formats. She is delivering a new program, titled Grief, Loss, and New Traditions During the Holidays on December 2nd. Dornfeld helped develop and administer curriculum for another new program called Building Resilience During COVID-19. She is finishing up one wellness program course, Highlights of Taking Care of You, this week with another class beginning in January. Her work has also continued with the Diversity Affairs Committee. The Triple-P parenting program will be a pilot program for Winnebago County focusing on community strategy for early childhood wellness. Dornfeld obtained certification for teaching this program, which is expected to start in 2021. Dornfeld will be helping develop and lead a community advisory board examining childrens' wellness in Winnebago County. All public high schools in our county have been part of the Sources of Strength program, with varying degrees of involvement due to the pandemic. Dornfeld shared some of the struggles they've been seeing in students, parents, teachers, and administration during the pandemic. Work continues with the Youth Risk Behavior Study. Dornfeld helped certify 6 new facilitators to deliver the ACEs Trauma-Informed Care programming throughout the state. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program continues to meet virtually; Sandy Bell, the GRG Coordinator, has been picking up and delivering food boxes from

the Feeding America drive-through to the GRG families. Dornfeld and Bell have been working hard to be creative in continuing to deliver support for this group and meet their various needs.

Extension Administration and Department Reports:

Staff/Facility/Department Updates: The Parks Committee voted to approve the new Community Garden name. Viau will forward the information to the clerk's office and have the topic added to an upcoming Winnebago County Board agenda. Viau added that for the Pesticide Applicator Training, the press release stated that the training will be conducted online but the testing will need to be scheduled in-person at Extension offices. Due to Extension offices being closed to the public in several counties, this has created a need for alternatives. Online testing has been developed as a temporary alternative. In Winnebago County, producers will be directed to complete the online testing option; our office will work with producers who are truly unable to complete testing online to find an alternative on a case-by-case basis.

Area/Region/State Updates: The Dean is forming a group to pull together best practices learned from transitions to alternate program formats during the pandemic. The goal is to combine best old practices with new best practices to meet programming needs post-pandemic. The state budget through the July 2020 - June 2021 fiscal year has been updated to reflect reductions due to the pandemic. At this point, Extension will not be laying off staff to meet budget cuts; hiring staff for open positions will be very cautious and strategic. A second round of furloughs will begin in January 2021 in response to budget cuts. All state staff will be receiving 2% wage increases in 2021. This wage increase was included in the 2021 Contracted Services Agreement already approved by the committee. The county will see an adjustment with the first billing cycle to reflect the reduction in wages due to the furloughs.

Comments by Committee Members: Borchart inquired whether Extension programming tracks the location of program participants to ensure various communities receive needed services/education. Dornfeld explained that program registration does collect that information. Extension also updates a list of program partners to send out a Nondiscrimination Policy notice and agreement every three years, which shows locations of the organizations Extension partners with to deliver programming in various communities. Borchart inquired whether there is a mapping program or some sort of visual way to physically see what areas people are being reached. If anyone becomes aware of a resource like this, he encourages Extension utilize and share it.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, December 17th, 2020.

Adjourned: Zellmer moved to adjourn; seconded by Binder. Motion carried 5-0, 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson