

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, November 21st, 2019
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

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

Members Absent: None.

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Viau, Christi Gabriliska, Todd Wenzel, Sarah Thompson, Mandi Dornfeld, Dana Berger, Kris Soper, 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: Brunn moved to approve the 10/17/2019 minutes; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 5-0.

Safety: Borchart reminded everyone to be safe during deer hunting and while processing any deer harvest. Food safety is big right now with the holidays approaching. Everyone is encouraged to follow food safety practices while preparing, serving, and storing food. Dornfeld shared that there are currently recalls and notices about romaine lettuce and blackberries in relation to salmonella, e-coli, and hepatitis.

Program Reports:

FoodWise: Gabriliska presented in place of Soper, who could not be present. Gabriliska distributed and reviewed a PEARS Snapshot report reviewing FoodWise audience reached. The FoodWise team is developing a more user-friendly infographic to share program activities and information, which will be shared when published. Soper has focused on programming with children in the schools and Grocery Store Tours over this past year. Walmart and Festival Foods sponsor \$10 gift cards for each Grocery Store Tour participant at their location. Feedback from these events has been positive and indicates participants utilize the information they learn. Soper also does programming at Food Pantries and WIC offices. FoodWise has been chosen to partner with HeadStart to pilot the Exploring Foods Together curriculum. The program will begin Spring 2020. One of Soper's 2020 goals is to get into 4K classrooms to teach FoodWise programming. Snider suggested the entire committee attend one of the Grocery Store Tours. Gabriliska offered a tour specifically for the committee.

Finance: Wenzel distributed and reviewed a Financial Security Programming handout. Wenzel expressed his appreciation for the welcoming and positive environment he's experienced at the Winnebago County office and in Extension as a whole. Wenzel's programming thus far has focused on Rent Smart, Money Matters, and the Check Your Credit Campaign. Evaluation of financial programming at the state level consists of a pre-participation survey and a follow-up survey to assess knowledge maintenance. Rent Smart has experienced problematic attendance over the past year for uncertain reasons. Dornfeld shared that due to the Rent Smart Train the Trainer sessions, other organizations may be offering the program. Further examination of trends is needed to determine whether to continue to offer Rent Smart or focus on other programming. Wenzel has been coordinating with the Correctional Institution to offer Rent Smart and Money Matters programming to inmates about to re-enter the community. Wenzel and Donn Lord met with the Mayor earlier this year regarding how to increase the number of available rental properties in Oshkosh. Wenzel is participating in a cohort training for new hires with Extension. This training has been helpful for learning about the vast resources for information and programming. Viau explained that Wenzel's position is currently part-time, but Viau has been keeping his ears open for opportunities that could fund his position to be full-time because the need for additional programming is there.

Youth & Science: Thompson has been participating in afterschool programs at various schools. Thompson will provide information on demographics and participants reached at the end of the school year. Cloverbud Blast was last Sunday and about 20 kids participated. Thompson partnered with FFA to teach groups of 7th graders at Norbert Rich School Forest. National Youth Science Day's "Game Changers" Event has been rescheduled. The next YouthGo event will be December 5th and will be a "make and take" activity sewing drawstring bags.

Committee Chair Report: Snider met with the 4-H Endowment Committee recently. Snider is continuing to petition for donations for the Endowment Fund. Snider distributed canvas totes to committee members with the new UW-Madison Division of Extension logo.

County Board Scholarship: Snider is exploring options for broadening the type of candidates considered for scholarships. Snider is also exploring using the 10th scholarship for non-traditional candidates.

UW-Extension – Administration:

Staff Updates/Area Updates: Viau reported that the contracted services Agreement with UW-Madison is in process. Viau reviewed office practice for unexpected absences such as funeral leave which may include reduced coverage or office closure. Hendrickson will forward any announcements to the committee as information become available.

Department Activities: Viau stated that the weather has been problematic for getting work done at the Community Gardens. Due to weather and time-constraints, Extension is anticipating having to do a budget carryover to complete the work in the spring.

State Activities: Viau and other educators recently attended the Extension All-Colleague Conference. UW-Madison is excited to have staff in all 72 counties due to the merger. This helps for recruiting as well as distributing information from one of the top research institutions in the world. The Title and Total Compensation Review is in progress. The goal is to ensure similar positions across the Big 10 schools are comparable in position and compensation. This process could help the UW-System be more competitive in hiring and retaining staff. Area 10 is scheduled for a Civil Rights Review in 2021.

Comments by Extension Staff: None.

Comments by Committee Members: None.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, December 19st, 2019.

Adjourned: Borchart moved to adjourn; seconded by Binder. Motion carried 5-0, 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson