

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

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

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Kniep, Kim Miller, Catherine Neiswender, Chad Cook, and Amy Timm.

**Others Present:** Tom Egan (Fair Association President).

**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:** Gordon moved to approve the 11/17/2016 minutes; seconded by Long. Motion carried **4-0**.

**Program Reports:**

**Fair Association:** Egan distributed the 2016 Accounting Report for the Winnebago County Fair Association. Egan highlighted the insurance, maintenance, emergency services, and electrician expenses to explain some of the costs exceeding funds from or that go back to Winnebago County. Due to these additional expenses, the Winnebago County Fair typically only brings in \$10,000 – \$20,000 in profit. Members can contact Egan or Julie Barthels (Treasurer) with additional questions. Egan concluded by expressing appreciation for the county's support.

**Natural Resources:** Cook diagramed the Fox River water system to show the basis for the work he has been focusing on. The water quality in the Fox River system is impaired due to drainage from associated watersheds, chemicals from corporations permitted to discharge into the water, and sediment runoff from agriculture. Cook has been active with the *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Process* and a *Lake Management Plan* for reducing chemicals and sediment in the waterways. These two plans will help develop smaller plans for targeting specific aspects and areas of the water system over the next several years. He has also been partnering with Neiswender to study the economic impact of fishing tournaments on the water system.

**Community Resource Development:** Neiswender distributed handouts on the *Rural Transportation in Winnebago County* and *Neighborhood Partners Network (NP2)*. Neiswender reviewed the *Making the Ride Happen* program and 2015 outcomes. Spring 2016 brought the *Rural Transportation Visioning and Strategic Doing* process that identified a vision for the program to provide reliable transportation opportunities available to all. Three committees formed out of this process to connect rural transportation with health facilities, employers, and build the network. Fall 2016 brought the *Rural Transportation Strategic Doing* check-in. Neiswender explained that the program pulls people and agencies together to determine what options are available or could be created. Neiswender reviewed the *Neighborhood Partners Network (NP2)* vision for the communities and the entire Fox Valley region to be strengthened by increasingly vibrant and productive neighborhoods. Session I and II of *Leadership Development for Neighborhood Core Teams* occurred in early 2016. Fall 2016 brought the *Institutional Gapper's Network*, which pulls community institutions together to work across departmental boundaries to support neighborhoods.

**Horticulture:** Miller distributed handouts reviewing work with the *Master Gardener* program in 2016. Miller highlighted the trends seen with the *Plant Health Advising* program in 2016. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers that assist UWEX in answering questions regarding plant health, providing youth programs in the community, and contributing to food security. Miller reviewed the requirements for becoming a Master Gardener in Winnebago County and the various benefits they provide to UWEX and the community. A new form was developed this year for reporting Master Gardener hours of volunteer service and continuing education. In the *Winnebago County Master Gardener* program, 13 members have put in 500+ volunteer hours this year, 18 have 1000+ hours, 7 have 1500+ hours, and 1 has 3950 hours. Miller provided an update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), explaining that it has now been confirmed in Neenah. One Master Gardener found an invasive species, the water hyacinth, in the Winnebago water system last year that had previously never been recorded there.

**Committee Chair Report:** Snider shared his key takeaways from the Wisconsin Counties Association nEXT Generation webinar. County groupings seem to be fairly concrete. UWEX will be forced by the budget to narrow their focus based on county needs. Snider reviewed staff updates within the Chancellor's office. Snider expressed concern that no one from Calumet County participated in the webinar, posing the question of whether Winnebago County should start trying to meet with the other counties in our cluster. Kniep shared she has received mixed messages from administration on holding cluster meetings before the nEXT Generation recommendations come out in February.

**UW-Extension – Administration:**

**Staff Updates:** The FoodWise Coordinator position is still open and will not be posted again until 2017. Christi Beilfuss (Waupaca County) will continue supporting Kris Soper and Evan Groth through October 2017. Neiswender has been appointed as the Interim Associate Program Director and Program Liaison for CNRED at the state level. She will be serving 50% with Winnebago County and 50% with the state office beginning January 1, 2017. To maintain coverage here, UWEX has given permission to hire a full-time backfill position that would be here 50% and in Outagamie 50% to also cover their staff opening.

**Department Activities:** No additional updates.

**Civil Rights Review – Action Plan:** UWEX is still awaiting the ratings from the Civil Rights Review Team. Kniep distributed the action plan developed by our office going forward.

**nEXT Generation:** Previously discussed in the Committee Chair report.

**2017 Meeting Dates:** Kniep distributed a draft of 2017 Extension Committee meeting dates. WACEC (Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees) is having a Capitol Connections event in Madison on April 20, 2017. Kniep distributed a handout about this event.

**Comments by Committee Members:** None.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Adjourned:** Long moved to adjourn; seconded by Long. Motion carried **3-0**, 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Timm