

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, December 16, 2021**  
**James P. Coughlin Center - Room A/B**

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

**Members Absent:** Doug Zellmer.

**Extension Winnebago County Staff:** Chris Viau, Sarah Thompson, Ashley Rolph, Dana Berger, and Mandi Dornfeld.

**Others Present:** Mike Domke and Matt Newby (Winnebago County Fair Association).

**Meeting Called to Order** at 9:00 a.m. by Tom Snider.

**Comments from the Public Related to Items on the Agenda/Requests to Add Items to the Next Agenda:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** Borchart moved to approve the 11/18/2021 minutes, second by Binder. Motion carried 4-0.

**Safety Share – Tom Borchart:** Borchart shared a report on how the sun is still powerful in the winter. He reminded everyone to take care of themselves this winter, including their mental health.

**Committee Chair Report:** Tom Snider shared that he will be submitting his non-candidacy for 2022.

**Diversity Affairs Commission:**

- **Amendments to Strategic Plan and Bylaws recommended by Mary Ann Mueller** – There weren't many changes. Binder made a motion to approve the amended bylaws, seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 3-1 to approve amendments to bylaws.
- **Terms for Extension Winnebago County Staff** – Looking for a secretary; if one cannot be found, there is a possibility of extending an Extension Winnebago County support staff for logistical support.

The Commission does not have a full committee; the group is working really hard to get the committee going.

**Winnebago County Fair Association** – Domke gave a report of the 2021 Fair. This year's county fair had one of the largest crowds on Friday night, even though there was a big rain storm. Saturday and Sunday didn't have as many in attendance due to the weather. Domke shared that this year they are going to be scheduling smaller entertainment for bands and bigger entertainment attractions for the grandstand. Domke anticipates the improvements being made on the camping sites will be helpful for the coming years. There will be better electrical and more spaces. Overall, this year's county fair did fairly well, profiting more than 2019.

**UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates:**

- **Human Development & Relationships/ Health & Well-Being** – Dornfeld reported that the Trauma Informed committee will be hiring a new director in the next six months. There is a rural mental health grant that Dornfeld has been asked to be a part of. This grant will help high schoolers with mental health. Right now, they are trying to get Neenah High School certified as rural.

Dornfeld shared that Winneconne High school has a lot of active participants in the Sources of Strength program, a number of them being high school males. Dornfeld is working to finish Sources of Strength in the schools for the season.

Dornfeld shared that the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group was greatly impacted by COVID this fall. They lost one grandparent, and 5 others have been really ill or hospitalized. Due to staff illness and COVID, changes were made for the Christmas event. Instead of holding a Christmas get together, Jody Bezio and HDR intern Sarah Van Cuyk delivered gifts, meals, and gift cards to the homes of group members.

Dornfeld recently had the opportunity to conduct a Real Colors training for Winnebago County Department Heads. The Winnebago County Wellness Committee no longer has a leader, and Dornfeld was asked to lead it. Dornfeld has not yet made a decision.

- **Winnebago County Scholarship Historical Recap** – Thompson gave a detailed overview of how the Winnebago County Scholarship process goes. For this scholarship, youth are provided with a brochure and application that outlines eligibility requirements. The scholarship is available to all youth in Winnebago County and materials are given to all the schools within the county.

Snider stated that the Extension Committee will look into Scholarship and mention it at the next Board meeting.

**Extension Administration and Department Reports – Chris Viau:**

- **Facility Updates:** Not a lot of changes to note. Non-profit groups are using meeting rooms. The County Executive's Office is looking at technology upgrades.
- **Staff and Department Updates:** We are trying to keep everyone safe and healthy and encouraging vaccines and boosters.

The Extension contract is making its rounds. Viau stated that he is working on hiring for the AG position or posting the Horticulture position in early 2022. Our county staff received bonuses and merit raises for their contributions.

- **Area/Region/State Updates:** None to report.

**Comments by Committee Members:** None.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, January 20, 2022.

**Adjourned:** Powers moved to adjourn at 10:50 a.m.; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 3–0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ashley Rolph