

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, January 16, 2014
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Nancy Barker, Guy Hegg, Susan Locke, Tom Snider, Tom Widener

UW-Extension Staff: Evan Groth, Leonard Polzin, Chris Kniep

Meeting called to order at 9:00a.m. by Chair Nancy Barker.

Comments from the Public related to items on the agenda - none

Approval of Minutes: Snider moved to approve the December 19th, 2013 minutes. Hegg seconded. Edit to minutes: change “Filed” to “Field” in the “comments by committee member” section of the minutes. Motion carried with edit.

Storage Up-date and possible action: Kniep shared copies of the revised “Sunnyview Exposition Center Policy Statement Maintenance and Use Agreement” that had been approved by the Parks Committee. Motion by Widener/second by Snider to approve the agreement. Motion carried 4/1.

Program Reports:

Youth and Science: Leonard Polzin highlighted the impact of last year’s work – 2000+ direct contacts, work with 7 interns, and strong community partnerships have been formed. On the Agriculture side of Polzin’s work this year, he is working on a Dairy Management Program, Dairy Quiz bowl with 4-H youth, re-introducing the Conservation Field Days, and partnering with Nick Schneider on the “Grow your Future” program. The focus of his youth work is on after school programs in Oshkosh and Menasha, STEM/LEGO programs and AG in the Classroom teaching. Helping with this programming is an intern from UW-Oshkosh, who will be starting February 10th. Polzin announced the 2014 Dairy breakfast will be held June 7th near Pickett.

Nutrition Education: Evan Growth reported on his WNEP sites in the three county project. Groth began in November and started teaching right away at the before/after school programs, Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, and senior meal sites. Groth’s work in the Menasha schools includes a three session program focusing on the food groups and incorporating foods from all groups in the diet. Programs are done at schools where more than 50% of the children are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Children have hands on experiences with the foods, games and challenges that reinforce the information that is shared.

Family Living Programs: Chris Kniep highlighted her work with the Home and Community Education organization (HCE) distributing copies of the 2014 program booklet and information about two of their community service projects. The Stitches of Love project produces 1,500+ pieces of headgear a year for cancer patients in Winnebago County and surrounding areas. The Bookworms Program™ reaches about 135 Head Start children with a literacy program – sharing books and related activities. The children develop a library of their own, receiving 9 books each year. Kniep’s work with HCE focuses on educational programs and organization leadership.

Committee Chair Report: Nancy Barker shared it was good to be back with the committee. She shared a copy of an article regarding LEGOs programs from the Menasha paper.

UW-Extension – Administration – Chris Kniep

Staff Up-dates

- Barb Barker has started as the Interim 4-H Youth Development Educator. She will be working 40% in the county. Barker is the 4-H Youth Development Educator in Waushara County.

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- Kim Miller was scheduled to present at the Special Orders meeting in January on Emerald Ash Borer. As this meeting is rescheduled, the committee would like Miller's presentation to address a coordinated effort of addressing this issues – what needs to be done/a call to action. Widener and Kniep will talk to Miller about this focus.

2014 Schedule

- 2014 calendar was distributed to members

WACEC plans

- Kniep up-dated the committee on the conference plans – held June 24-25 in Eau Claire, 2015 conference will be in conjunction with WCA.

Comments by Committee Members:

- Locke noted the information in the Counties Association newsletter on the 4-H Centennial and Kniep's article in the Wavelength.
- Widener inquired about Master Gardeners working with the Neenah Library on landscape/plantings.
- Hegg reported on a call he had received from another County Board member regarding staffing – split positions like Neiswender/Beckendorf. Hegg and Kniep will discuss what information is desired and how to share that with the committee.
- Hegg requested that the flags in front of the Coughlin Building be better maintained.
- Widener noted all rooms in the building should be equipped with flashing lights connected to the fire alarm system.

Next Meeting: February 20th, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

Hegg motioned to adjourn; seconded by Snider. Motion passed 5-0.

Adjourned: 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Chris Kniep, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved February 20, 2014