

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Guy Hegg, Susan Locke, Nancy Barker, and James Englebert. Absent: Tom Widener

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Kniep, Nick Schneider, Kristi Cutts, and René Mehlberg.

**Others Present:** None

**Meeting called to order** at 9:04a.m. by Vice Chair Nancy Barker.

**Comments from the Public related to items on the Agenda:** None

**Motion to approve August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting minutes** by Englebert/Hegg to approve the minutes. Hegg requested a change to the minutes, correcting the August start time as 8:57 a.m. , and his arrival time as 9:00 a.m. Corrections accepted by committee. Motion to approve revised minutes carried 4-0. Hegg requested meetings not start before 9:00 a.m.

**Program Reports:**

**Agriculture Programs – Nick Schneider:** Schneider shared an overview of his work with the Management Assessment Center program which focuses on three different audiences: Agronomy, River Falls, and Dairy Profitability. The program is a state Extension program through the Center of Dairy Profitability. Schneider serves on a team to work with individuals who go through the 6 exercises of the program. The goal of the program is to work with individuals to assess and/or increase their skill sets for managerial positions.

**Community Resource Development – Catherine Neiswender:** No report as Neiswender was out sick.

**Committee Vice Chair Report, Nancy Barker:** Barker shared that UW-Fox Valley is in the process of hiring a new CEO/Dean and are hoping to have someone on staff by October 1. Hegg requested a cost per student from UW-Fox Valley.

**UW-Extension – Administration, Chris Kniep:**

**2011 Budget:** Kniep shared an estimate of the current budget with about 8 months of expenses being paid. Overall everything is looking on target.

**Staff Update:** Status of the 4-H Youth Development Associate Position: Interviewed 5 candidates from the pool of close to 40 applicants. There was consensus on the top candidate and reference checks are in process. Hopefully will have a decision by the end of the week.

Status of WNEP Coordinator: Preliminary interviews were held with three individuals with final interviews the first Friday of October with two candidates.

Support Staff Update: Since the last meeting, the secretary that had been hired, Allison Thomson was terminated. The position was reposted, and interviews occurred. Temporary employee Sarah Thompson was hired for the position, with her first day as a permanent employee September 15.

State level UW-Extension Cooperative Extension Update: Currently there is a freeze on hiring. Kniep also shared that there is change in current districts which will affect the WACEC districts. Therefore, the spring district WACEC meeting is on-hold.

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**Department Activities:** Announced that Schneider, Neiswender, and Kniep will be part of a collaboration between UW-Extension, UW-Oshkosh, and Rosendale Dairy. UW-Extension, from the state level, requested the local county presence to be involved. A meeting will be held the end of September.

Ray Cross, Chancellor of UW-Extension and UW Colleges will be visiting the end of November.

Shared a picture of the “Back Pack” program that Kris Soper reported on in August.

Hegg raised a question regarding why the county sustainability budget request is in the UW-Extension Budget and not the facilities budget. Kniep shared her knowledge about the request. Hegg will ask Orenstein about the placement of the account.

**Sunnyview Expo Garage Tour:** Barker and Locke took part in the tour. No more information at this time.

**Comments by Committee Members:** Locke visited Widener on Monday, who looks good. Hegg shared that he will be joining the Menasha Joint School District Facilities committee.

Next meeting is Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 9:00a.m. at the James P. Coughlin Center.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:12p.m. by Locke/Hegg. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
René L. Mehlberg, Recording Secretary