

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, December 15th, 2011
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Nancy Barker, Guy Hegg, Susan Locke and Jim Englebert.

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Nick Schneider and Julie Grundy

Others Present: Tom Egan, Larry Last, Debbie Last

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Tom Widener.

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

Motion to approve November 17th, 2011 meeting minutes by Englebert/Barker to approve the minutes.
Motion carried.

Program Reports:

Winnebago County Fair Association – Tom Egan: Tom distributed copies of the Winnebago County Fair Association Balance Sheets dated 11/30/11. The report indicates a loss of approximately \$25,000 for the 2010 County Fair. Much of the loss is attributed to the weather during the fair that cancelled the Saturday night grandstand performance. Unpaid bills will be paid in 2012 when the county allocation is available.

Agriculture Programs – Nick Schneider: Nick highlighted three of the research projects that he has been involved with in Winnebago County that are part of state or regional efforts. An Alfalfa study is investigating yield by age of the stand and number of times harvested per season. The study involves 36 fields in the state, five of the fields are located in Winnebago County. A study focusing on nitrogen is working to determine maximum return on investment when nitrogen is applied to crop fields. This work is linked to a Midwest regional study. The third project is studying the use of radish as a cover crop in no-till operations. The radishes have been found helpful in adding nutrients to the field and in aerating the field.

Committee Chair Report – Tom Widener:

Potential joint meeting with Parks Committee: Tom commented on the joint Parks/UWEX Committee meeting. He does not believe UW-Extension Committee should be involved in the building design discussions. Nancy Barker believes it is important for the committee to attend the meetings regarding a new building. Guy Hegg expressed concerns regarding the costs, future need for space, and duplicative nature of the facility. Draft copies of the joint committee meeting minutes were shared. Per requested at the joint meeting, committee members also received copies of the UWEX storage needs and rental storage space price quotes. Copies of these documents will be forwarded to Rob Way.

UW-Fox Up-date: Tom noted that in January 2012 UW-Fox would begin work on the new engineering building with classes starting there in the fall of 2012.

Student apartments being built near UW-Fox are by a private company.

UW-Extension – Administration, Chris Kniep:

Good News: Chris updated members about Catherine Neiswender's adoption and that she would be out of the office on Family Medical leave until February 2012.

Staff Up-date: Chris also noted Paula Hella, Calumet, Outagamie & Winnebago County WNEP Coordinator started November 1, 2011, Maria Daul has resigned her position of Nutrition Educator and project staffing will be determined in early 2012.

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Nick Schneider's split position began November 1st, with the back-fill position currently posted. Application Deadline for the backfill position is 12/16/11, with plans to interview before January 1.

2011 Budget: Chris distributed copies of the department budget up-date, noting pending income and expenses.

Department Activities: Chris shared preview copies of the invitations for the upcoming "World Showcase" January 19, 2012 in Menasha that Mary Beth Seib and Neil Klemme are involved with, encouraging members to attend the event.

Chris also encouraged committee members to view the "After School Photography" display in the lobby display case that features photos from Menasha's Jefferson and Maplewood Schools. The display was designed by Mary Beth Seib.

A Lego Robotics Club was started by Mary Beth and a County magazine noted a 4-H Coop program "4-H Gateway Academy" for robotics started.

Chancellor Cross's visit on November 29th provided an opportunity for the Chancellor to meet staff and visit the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry.

2012 will mark the centennial for Wisconsin Cooperative Extension. Retired 4-H Educator Jim Barthel and Chris Kniep are co-chairing the history committee for the celebration. A centennial logo has been developed. Speakers at the state WACEC meeting will focus on the centennial.

2012 Meeting Dates: Chris distributed 2012 UW-Extension calendar to members.

Comments by Committee Members: Guy Hegg requested information on the total cost of for students to attend UW-Fox. Tow Widener referred him to Jim Egan for information.

Next meeting is Thursday, January 19th at 9:00 a.m. at the James P. Coughlin Center.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 am. by Hegg/Barker. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by: Julie Grundy, Recording Secretary