

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Tom Widener, Tom Snider, and George Scherck.

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Kniep, Kayla Oberstadt, Mandi Dornfeld, Sarah Thompson, and Amy Timm.

**Others Present:** None.

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

**Comments from the Public related to items on the agenda:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** Snider moved to approve the 12/17/ 2015 minutes; seconded by Scherck. Motion carried **3-0**.

**Program Reports:**

**4-H Youth Development:** Oberstadt distributed copies of *Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development January 2016 Update*. Oberstadt reviewed current 4-H membership totals: 21 community clubs, 420 active 4-H members with additional youth enrolled and awaiting approval, and 177 adult volunteer leaders. Oberstadt trained 10 new leaders through orientation sessions, showing growth and continued interest in the program. The *4-H Family Banquet* in October was a large success with 110 members, leaders, and guests in attendance. Oberstadt is partnering with Sarah Thompson and Catherine Neiswender on a *Workforce Skills Needs Assessment* to identify and help build workforce readiness and skills for 4-H youth. Agencies and companies that could be potential partners for skill-building have been identified and compiled by a new volunteer intern. The fall *Pizza Sale*, raised over \$3,000 to support county-wide 4-H programs

Thompson distributed a flyer advertising upcoming *Lego Club* dates. Thompson shared about Youth & Science *STEM* programs she has been involved in, including *DOTS Day* and *Lego Club*. Thompson shared these efforts engage a diverse Winnebago County population not typically enrolled in the 4-H community club program. Youth involvement has seen middle-school age participants helping to teach younger participants ages 3 years and up. Winnebago County was awarded a \$2,500.00 *National Youth Science Day* grant to help with operational and promotional costs of youth programs.

**2016 County Board Scholarship Program:** Thompson shared that the *Scholarship* packets will be distributed at the County Board meeting Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Scholarship information will be shared with all of the schools Winnebago County youth attend, posted on the Winnebago County Website and the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation website. The board members agreed to represent the county board by sharing the scholarship information with local schools.

**Committee Chair Report:**

**nEXT Generation:** Widener and Kniep led a discussion on the *nEXT Generation* Recommendations document responding to questions and gathering feedback to share with Chancellor Sandeen and Dean Klemme. Kniep expressed appreciation to the committee for their continued support of Winnebago County UW-Extension. Kniep noted there is much confusion about the proposed changes, many rumors and that many details remain. A basic understanding of the *nEXT Generation* proposal is “doing less with less”.

Committee comments focused on the proposed county cluster, staffing of the cluster, the status of county funded positions and the lack of clarity/detail in the recommendations. Widener, Kniep and Neiswender will draft a summary of comments to forward to Chancellor Sandeen and Dean Klemme. Committee members will receive a draft for review/comment before forwarding to the state.

Kniep encouraged committee members to submit their questions for consideration in the proposal process. Additionally, Snider will be at the legislative meeting February 2 & 3 and can bring questions.

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**Vacation Policy:** Widener reviewed the distributed *Vacation Days Summary* showing the comparisons between various counties/cities concerning vacation awarded to employees. Widener proposed that the committee presents these differences to the Personnel and Finance Committee in February to consider how Winnebago County compares with other counties

**UW-Extension – Administration:**

**PA System/Hearing Loop Status:** Kniep shared that the PA system and the Hearing Loop have been installed, but the two have yet to be connected. Widener recommended having as many microphones as we can get, due to currently only having two per room.

**Staff Updates:** Kniep reported that the WNEP Coordinator position is still open and has not been posted yet. WNEP is not part of the *nEXT Generation* proposal due to being federally funded, but WNEP is doing their own reorganization.

Kniep reviewed policies concerning UW-Extension volunteers. *Official* UW-Extension volunteers require specific processes (background checks, approval, policy paperwork, etc.) to be covered by liability insurance. Changes in volunteer management processes are being implemented to meet state and federal requirements.

**UWEX Updates – Department Activities:** Kniep shared that Darrell McCauley and Kim Miller may have a lead on a hoop house from Brown County. A proposal with Land and Water Conservation was approved to put rain gardens around the J.P. Coughlin building.

**2016 Meeting Calendar:** Kniep distributed the current 2016 Winnebago County Extension Committee meeting dates and schedule of presenters. Winnefox will be added to the schedule once they have determined which month they will be available to present.

**Comments by Committee Members:** None.

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be held Thursday, February 18, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

**Adjourned:** Snider moved to adjourn; seconded by Scherck. Motion carried **3-0**, 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Amy Timm