

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, September 17th, 2015
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Ron Hardy, Nancy Barker, and George Schenck

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Mandi Dornfeld, Kim Miller, 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: Nancy Barker moved to approve the 8/20/2015 minutes. Ron Hardy seconded. Motion carried **4-0** to approve the minutes.

Program Reports:

Family Living Programs: Mandi Dornfeld shared Winnebago County UWEX is a pilot group for a new online parenting community, *Winnebago County Parenthetical*. People can sign up for both a discussion group for parents on Facebook and also for a weekly newsletter. Topics and questions are posted online for discussion and are answered/supported by evidence-based research and articles provided by the state. The newsletter will also provide opportunity for cross-program marketing of UWEX programs open to the public. This program is partnering with the school districts to provide an opportunity for data-building. The *Parenthetical* program is an opportunity to reach parents, establish a sense of community, and provide support. A second program launching this fall is *Block Parties*. *Block parties* will have trained Volunteer Play Partners that work with parents to teach them how to use blocks in meaningful ways to help their children learn. A third major outreach Family Living is focusing on is *The Real Happy Hour*. This program uses evidence-based research and data about the protective factors and benefits to families from eating a meal together. UWEX is partnering with Re-Think and the Public Health Committee on this project. Chris Kniep shared an explanation of the *Rent Smart* tenant education program. The program provides information about rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords.

Horticulture Programs: Kim Miller shared that this is a transition period of the year with a reduction in plant health calls. The Master Gardener organization has about 120 members this year that have completed 7,300 hours of volunteer service and 2,000 hours of continuing education. The state horticulture team has been taking some of their workshops statewide through the partnership of UWEX and DNR. One example of expanding workshops is the *Invasive Plant & Earthworm Identification & Management* workshop. A second workshop being delivered is the *Tree Pruning Workshop* in October. Kim is developing a consumer-based training service series to provide consumers with educational information and hands-on teaching. Kim has been asked to serve as the UWEX representative on the WI Urban Forestry Council. The council addresses issues with tree health, including the Emerald Ash Borer.

Committee Chair Report: Tom Widener shared the progress on moving materials from the old fair building to the new building. Chris Kniep shared that materials not needed were disposed of.

Kim Miller is in the middle of discussions regarding how to maintain the Neenah Public Library garden/display through the Master Gardner program.

Emerald Ash Borer: Tom Widener provided a recap of Winnebago County developing a program for addressing the EAB issue. Kim Miller has been pivotal in advising, partnering with Facilities, and implementing EAB management.

WCA/WACEC Attendance: Tom Widener and Tom Snider will be attending.

UW-Extension – Administration: Chris Kniep shared about the UWEX *De-Escalation Training* delivered last month. Chris worked with Ron Montgomery from Human Resources and Pete Ehler from the Sheriff's Department to conduct the training session. UWEX is in the process of getting handicap parking spaces in the rear parking lot between UWEX and DNR for consumer accessibility. Updating the PA system in meeting rooms A & B with a hearing loop is also in process.

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Staff Updates: None.

UWEX Updates – Department Activities: Chris Kniep shared that the *Soil Health Field Day* event conducted by Darrell McCauley was a success despite the hot temperatures. Catherine Neiswender has been very active in conducting *Real Colors* workshops. The Wisconsin Waterways funding discussed last month is being addressed by the County Executive. September 10th was the first *Grandparents Support Group* meeting for the new year.

UWEX Survey: Results will be shared at the WACEC meeting along with some preliminary discussion on the effects to the UWEX Cooperative Extension budget. Part of the budget cuts requires that 7% of county positions that are open remain unfilled at any given time. Different options for meeting the budget cuts are still being considered.

Comments by Committee Members: None

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be held Thursday, October 15, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned: Nancy Barker moved to adjourn; seconded by Ron Hardy. Motion carried **4-0**, 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Amy Timm

Approved :