

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, October 15th, 2015
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Nancy Barker, and George Scherck.

UW-Extension Staff: Catherine Neiswender, Sarah Thompson, Kim Miller, Chris Kniep, 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: George Scherck moved to approve the 9/17/2015 minutes. Nancy Barker seconded. Motion carried **3-0**.

UW-Extension – Administration:

Staff Updates: Chris Kniep shared that Mandi Dornfeld, Darrell McCauley, and Kayla Oberstadt attended UW-Extension's New Colleague Orientation. Ashley Rolph, Michelle Peplow, Sarah Thompson, Mandi Dornfeld, and Amy Timm will be completing the new performance evaluations this month. The new evaluation determines if and how much of a merit increase they receive. The staff will do a self-evaluation as part of the process and will set goals for the upcoming year. Chris Kniep was awarded the National Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) "Continued Excellence Award".

UWEX Updates – Department Activities:

The rear parking lot between UWEX and DNR has been updated to include three handicap parking spaces. The update to the PA system and installing hearing assistance for meeting rooms A and B is in progress. Chris also announced that there will be a Regional WACEC meeting in Manitowoc on Friday, February 26th that the committee members are invited to attend.

UWEX nEXT Generation Update: The nEXT Generation proposal seeks to reorganize Cooperative Extension Statewide to meet the state budget reductions while still maintaining a local presence. The current state staffing proposal includes a 7% reduction in staff. Unfilled positions at any given time help meet this requirement. Currently, there are 75 UWEX offices throughout the state (county and tribal) with similar staff structures. There are currently 282 full-time positions, and the proposal would decrease this to 249 positions. The proposal includes a reduction of 72 county Dept. Heads to 24 areas/clusters of counties. There would be an area leader providing oversight to the county offices and education programs within their cluster. Staffing reduction proposals for UW-Extension administrative positions and campus based positions are being developed. Implementation of the final staffing plan will occur throughout the 2016 year. The 2017 county budget proposal is expected to reflect the adopted changes. Dean Rick Klemme is seeking feedback and suggestions.

Program Reports:

Community Resource Development: Catherine Neiswender shared the *Making the Ride Happen* program. Catherine provided a sample of the survey that was piloted in the town of Winneconne. The survey pilot is geared to further understand the demand for rural transportation and how to meet that need. To date they have received about 70 responses, and data is being compiled.

4-H Youth Development: Sarah Thompson shared about training at Upham Woods on Digital Observation Technology Skills (DOTS) that she and Kayla Oberstadt attended. Sarah and Kayla are planning a *Winter Leadership Training* at Upham Woods February 26-28th that would partner with Outagamie County. *National 4-H Week* was last week. *National Youth Science Day*, "Motion Commotion," was held at the JPCC last week. Tonight is *Lego Club Night*, and it includes participants of all ages. Youth & Science and CRD are partnering to incorporate skills-development that will support workforce development in youth programming.

Committee Chair Report: Tom Widener shared that \$9,000 has been set aside for scholarships for 2016. As with the 2015 year, if there is a very close tie between the 9th and 10th candidate, a 10th scholarship can be issued.

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Emerald Ash Borer: Kim Miller shared that Winnebago County Facilities is developing a contract to plant 20 new trees this fall. More plantings will be conducted in the spring. Removals of any dead or hazardous trees have begun and will continue through the end of the year. Priority-pruning jobs have also begun and will continue through the end of the year. Treatment for affected trees occurred in August and will last for an estimated 2 years. Evaluation of the tree canopy, condition of treated and non-treated trees, and growth of newly planted trees will determine future treatment. The Parks Dept. did submit a request for a DNR grant to address EAB within the county parks, but funds are very limited. Mike Elders has planned funding through Facilities for continued EAB management.

Comments by Committee Members: None.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be held Thursday, November 19, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned: Nancy Barker moved to adjourn; seconded by George Scherck. Motion carried **3-0**, 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Amy Timm