

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, November 19th, 2015
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

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

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Catherine Neiswender, Darrell McCauley, Chad Cook, 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: Snider moved to approve the 10/15/2015 minutes. Barker seconded. Motion carried **4-0**.

Program Reports:

Natural Resources: Chad Cook shared about hypoxia issues found in the Green Bay area known as the “dead zone.” In the dead zone, phosphorus reduces oxygen, fish, and plant population/health in the water. He has been involved with a project partnering with UW schools to explore what happens in the bay regarding water movement and issues with the dead zone. The project has allowed them to link how the watersheds emptying into the bay affect the bay. Finding this link has been a great accomplishment allowing for further study. Their computer program allows the information collected to show and predict reactions in the bay based on changes made to the watersheds. The project compares numbers taken from water samples in the watersheds to verify the numbers produced in the model are accurate. Cook’s role in the project has been working with the people who have an impact on the watersheds to get input for the model.

Agriculture: Darrell McCauley has been working to focus his work in Winnebago County. Four main focus areas have emerged: 1) Nutrient Management Planning and Implementation, 2) Forage Management: Cover Crops and Pasture Improvement, 3) Farm Progression: Modernization, Succession, and Workforce Development, and 4) Local Food: High Tunnel Production and Food Safety. Farm progression is the modernization of buildings/facilities and workforce development. The local foods focus reduces transportation of food, maintains nutrients, and increases consumption of local food production. Nutrient management education works on balancing nutrients in the land and reducing the phosphorus runoff. An important focus of nutrient management education is examining motivation for change.

Family Living Programs: Chris Kniep shared about her involvement with The *hub*. The *hub* addresses emergency service needs while focusing on longer term self-sufficiency. Kniep is part of the *hub* steering committee, case management committee and marketing committee. The case management group has identified 21 different areas of self-sufficiency to help individuals identify needs and set goals. Kniep has engaged Mandi Dornfeld in providing education on SMART goals, Kayla Oberstadt on volunteer training and development and Catherine Neiswender for planning processes. The aim of the *hub* is to develop a shared database for the partner agencies that provide support and assistance for individuals in need of emergency services and case management. This will focus on increasing individuals’ self-sufficiency and reducing repeat, long-term use/abuse of these services.

Committee Chair Report: Widener shared that he will not be running for office again this year. He expressed his desire for there to be a competitive race for County Board positions.

Emerald Ash Borer: Kim Miller shared that 20 new trees have been planted: 4 at UW-Extension, 3 at the Sherriff’s Department, 2 at the Highway Department, and 11 at Parkview. The team working this project is exploring grant opportunities for funding the continued treatment/replacement costs. The Parks Department did not receive the Urban Development Grant they had applied for. Treatments used on the 5% of EAB trees will delay further action (treatment/removal) for up to four years. Current focus is removing dead or hazardous trees.

WCA/WACEC Attendance: WACEC is February 26th, 2016. WACEC is looking for nominations of officers. Kniep handed out materials related to WACEC.

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Scholarship Program: Widener shared about the discussion at the budget meeting related to the scholarship. There is currently \$32,000 in an account to be used only for scholarships. Widener opened it to the group to discuss whether to increase the scholarship amounts, increase the number of scholarships, or leave the money in the account. Scherck suggested keeping the scholarship program the same as it is currently, where scholarships are awarded according to application quality instead of quantity per school. Retaining the \$32,000 in the account would make money available for 10th scholarships if there are close applications and also for future years if the scholarship program gets cut. Survey results about the scholarship voiced the same interests. The goal of this program is to increase interest and involvement in county government.

UW-Extension – Administration:

Staff Updates: Kniep shared that Wendy Beyer, the WNEP Coordinator, resigned on Monday, November 16th. This position will not be posted until after the 1st of the new year. It is expected for the position to be open until March/April 2016.

UWEX Updates – Department Activities: UW-Extension Committee will continue to meet at the J.P. Coughlin Center on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:00am. All required employee performance reviews were completed and submitted on time. A compensation study is now underway and will be completed by December 4th, 2015. Up-dating the PA system will include replacing the PA system and installing a hearing loop in the meeting rooms. Work is being planned for the last two weeks of December and first week of January.

UWEX nEXT Generation Update: No new decisions have been made regarding the new staffing plan for UW-Extension. A draft for the chancellor is expected by January 1st, 2016. Implementation is expected to begin July 1st, 2016 – Jan 1st, 2017. Impact at the county level is expected to be seen as of Jan 1st, 2017.

Comments by Committee Members: None.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be held Thursday, December 17, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned: Tom Snider moved to adjourn; seconded by Nancy Barker. Motion carried **4-0**, 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Amy Timm