

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, October 16, 2014
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Nancy Barker, Tom Widener, Koby Schellenger, Tom Snider

UW-Extension Staff: Catherine Neiswender, Kristi Cutts, Kim Miller, Sarah Thompson

Others Present: None

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

Comments from the Public related to items on the agenda - none

Approval of Minutes: Schellenger moved to approve the September 18, 2014 minutes. Barker seconded. Chair Tom Widener asked that the spelling of his last name be corrected in the "Committee Chair Report" section. Motion carried 4-0 to approve the September 18, 2014 minutes with the correction noted by Chair Tom Widener.

Program Reports:

Horticulture-Emerald Ash Borer: Kim Miller reported that the consultant hired to complete the tree inventory completed everything but the County Park. The consultant will be returning to finish the inventory at County Park by the end of October. She reported that she has GIS data from the tree inventory and plans to meet with Mike Elder and Dean Kaderabek to discuss the data and develop a plan. The target date for completion of the plan is by the end of the calendar year. Kim added that any trees identified for inoculation wouldn't be treated until April or May. Mr. Schellenger noted that the County budget book lists \$50,000 to treat EAB. He asked Kim if this amount of funding would be sufficient to address the need. Kim replied that the funding is a place to start for the first year, and that she would have a better response to Schellenger's inquiry after all of the tree inventory data has been analyzed. Chair Tom Widener said that he will be following up with the County Executive about the amount budgeted as he believed that \$100,000 was to be allocated for the EAB work.

Family Living Education: Kristi Cutts reported that UW Extension has been working on increasing the credit worthiness of Wisconsin residents through the 2/2, 6/6, 10/10 Check Your Credit campaign. This campaign provides educational materials in the following areas: Why check your credit report? What's on a credit report? How to obtain your credit Report. She shared copies of educational factsheets and said that educational workshops had been offered on 10/10 on the topic in addition to outreach to media outlets and family serving agencies. Kristi also shared information on the Fox Cities Money Conference that will be held on Saturday November 8, 2014 at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton. This is an ongoing effort to provide financial education to low-moderate income consumers in the Fox Valley. She added that a number of UW Extension professionals will be providing financial education at the conference. She also reported that there will be a November Rent Smart session at the Menasha Public Library.

4-H Youth Development: Sarah Thompson reported that she conducted her first educational program on October 11th during National Youth Science Day. This year's program was titled "Rockets to the Rescue." Sarah worked with 14 "aspiring aerospace engineers to use a rocket propulsion system to launch and deliver a payload of food (4 raisins) to an island" that had been cut off from all food deliveries. Sarah shared pictures of the event, and also reported that this event secured a new 4-H volunteer, a dad that is interested in starting the aerospace project in Winnebago County. She said that following this event that she and Matt have been working to develop a comprehensive program for promoting positive youth development in Winnebago County. They have made contacts with several schools and expect to begin programming at said schools during the spring semester. Family Food & Fun with 4-H (formerly 4-H Fund Day) is tentatively planned to be held at Maplewood Middle School in February 2015.

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Committee Chair Report:

Budget: Chair Tom Widener stated that everyone should have received their county budget book. As discussed the expansion of the horticulture position from half-time to full time is included in the budget book. He asked the committee members to allow him to respond first to any questions that other county supervisors may have.

Garage Up-date: Chair Tom Widener reported that he recently attended a facilities meeting where the garage replacement project was discussed. There was discussion at this meeting about whether there was a desire to add space to accommodate trailers that transport the animal pens. He stated that his response was that the project is to simply replace the existing garage, so there should be no alterations to the plan. He added that the corners of the building are spray painted on the ground where the building will be located. The project continues to move forward and it is expected that it will be completed prior to the 2015 county fair.

UW-Extension – Administration

Catherine Neiswender encouraged committee members to contact Department Head Chris Kniep if they have questions about the departmental budget. Catherine also provided information on the following:

Hiring processes

Youth & Science Educator: Sarah Thompson accepted the Youth & Science Educator position.

Agriculture Position: Interviews were conducted on 10/9 for the Agriculture Educator position. It is expected that an offer will be made once the background check is completed. The hope is for a November 1, 2014 start.

WNEP Coordinator: Wendy Beyer started as the new Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Coordinator on October 1.

Staff updates:

The support staff position vacated by Sarah Thompson has been posted and closes Friday. Catherine Neiswender and Chris Kniep will review applications

UWEX Up-dates – Department Activities:

Catherine Neiswender reported that she cancelled the What's Your Color Program due to low enrollment. She plans to offer the program in 2015. Kim Miller invited committee members to join her today at the Chainsaw Safety program being held at Memorial Park in Neenah. She added that there has been a great response to this program for municipal employees.

Comments by Committee Members:

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be held November 20th, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned: Barker moved to adjourn; seconded by Schellenger. Motion carried 4-0.
10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kristi Cutts