

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, January 18, 2024
James P. Coughlin Center - Meeting Room D
& Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Steve Binder, Tom Borchart, Kay Horan, and Karen D. Powers; Doug Zellmer joined later.

Members Absent: None.

Extension Winnebago County Staff: Chris Viau and Todd Wenzel.

Others Present: None.

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 a.m. by Steve Binder.

Comments from the Public Related to Items on the Agenda/Requests to Add Items to the Next Agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes: Borchart moved to approve the 12/21/2023 minutes, second by Horan. Motion carried 4-0.

Safety Share – Tom Borchart: Borchart reminded everyone to be prepared for extreme cold: maintain your vehicle, check vehicle batteries, keep windshield washer fluid filled, and keep a blanket and gloves in your vehicle.

Committee Chair Report: Binder shared positive reviews from the Day by Day Warming Shelter. Discussion ensued regarding benefits of the Rent Smart certificate for landlords and tenants.

UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates:

- **Human Development & Relationships** – Wenzel called attention to the various year-end handouts for committee members to review for his programming. Rent Smart Train the Trainer and Rent Smart classes are still being offered. Rent Smart classes have been conducted at the prison, county jail, NOVA counseling, Pillars, upcoming at the Drug Abuse Correctional Center, and other locations as well as online. Re-entry Ready is a financial literacy program for individuals nearing release from incarceration. Wenzel regularly conducts this program at Oshkosh Correctional Institution. Discussion ensued. Planning Ahead helps individuals plan for end-of-life. Youth Forward Wisconsin has an upcoming state bill to start a state-supported childhood savings account for every child born in or adopted into WI with \$25 deposited. Encouraging Financial Conversations has trained various professionals to have important conversations with their clients. Focus on Fathers is an ongoing online series Wenzel is involved with.
- **Community Development** – Ljung was unable to attend due to illness. Viau shared an update on her behalf. Viau shared details about Ljung's upcoming Grant Writing Workshop. More details will be shared via email. Committee members are encouraged to share, including at the upcoming County Board Meeting if feasible.

Extension Administration and Department Reports – Chris Viau:

- **Facility Updates:** Amy Hendrickson and Robin Franitza are currently completing training for the new meeting room reservation software. The JPCC building is under boiler repairs for the heating system.
- **Staff and Department Updates:** The Horticulture Educator position is expected to be posted in early February. During the interim while the position is open, consumers may utilize the state's Ask a Gardening Question system to get information and get questions answered. Extension Winnebago County staff will gather tomorrow afternoon for a professional development/celebratory event.
- **Area/Region/State Updates:** UW-Madison just celebrated 175 years of existence and has been touring the state in celebration. There will be a tour stop toward the end of March in the Appleton area. Extension will participate in this event. Borchart suggested a general overview of Extension programming be provided for the county board after spring elections. Discussion ensued.

Wisconsin Counties Association-UW Madison Division of Extension and Education Steering Committee

Update: Horan spoke with liaison Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf. The subcommittee had not met since September. Guiding principles were shared with Mark O'Connell and presented to Karl Martin. The steering committee will next work on the contract to-date between Extension and WCA. Discussion ensued regarding the presence and history of Extension within counties and states.

Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion: Viau suggested sharing Ljung's Grant Writing Workshop.

Comments by Committee Members: Powers inquired about the Point in Time Count. Wenzel informed that this national event is run by housing coalitions every January and July to evaluate homelessness. Discussion ensued. Powers inquired about the status of pay increases for state employees. An agreement was reached in late 2023; raises and retroactive pay went into effect January 2024.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

Adjourned: Powers moved to adjourn at 10:25 a.m.; seconded by Horan. Motion carried 5–0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson