

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2024**  
**James P. Coughlin Center - Meeting Room D**  
**& Zoom Virtual Meeting**

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

**Members Absent:** None.

**Extension Winnebago County Staff:** Chris Viau, Katie Jaegly, and Amy Hendrickson.

**Others Present:** None.

**Meeting Called to Order** at 9:01 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:** Horan moved to approve the 2/15/2024 minutes, second by Borchart. Motion carried 5-0.

**Safety Share – Tom Borchart:** Borchart advised everyone to be aware of your surroundings and not be in a hurry.

**Committee Chair Report:** Binder noted that this is the last meeting before elections and committee members change; he expressed his appreciation for the committee members.

**UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates:**

- **Health & Well-Being** – Jaegly is approaching her first full year in her role. SLEEP (SLeep Education for Everyone Program) is a new, 30-40 minute, 6-week program that is expected to tag onto another program, likely Strong Bodies and possibly WeCOPE. Jaegly has been conducting WeCOPE and Strong Bodies classes. Jefferson Elementary (Oshkosh) health education lessons finish today. Jaegly passed around cards made by students in the program. Committee members are encouraged to review the March Extension Program Updates report for more details and additional programming updates.
- **4-H Youth Development** – Berger has rescheduled her presentation for a different date due.

**Extension Administration and Department Reports – Chris Viau:** Viau distributed an Area 10 Director's update.

- **Facility Updates:** None shared.
- **Staff and Department Updates:** The Horticulture Educator position is open and may be extended a week if a larger application pool is needed. Dana Berger is planning for recruitment of a paid 4-H Program Assistant for summer. Todd Wenzel's proposal for the Wisconsin Correctional Association was selected to present on the Re-entry Ready program. The proposal submitted by Hannah Phillips for FoodWise garden beds was not funded; Dana Berger was able to recruit the funding from Culvers. The 2024 budget thus far is on track. Area 10 staff attended a professional development event on February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- **Area/Region/State Updates:** The Universities of Wisconsin institution wants to be a forerunner for developing and implementing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to analyze and organize data. There are many opportunities for exploration of how this technology can be used to help the communities we serve and to deliver education about AI. May 30<sup>th</sup> is the date for the UW-Madison Extension's 175<sup>th</sup> celebration in the Fox Valley Area. Location and further details will be shared as they are released. Horan inquired whether Wenzel is collaborating with the STAR program; Viau advised checking with Wenzel for details. Horan inquired about voting rights for inmates; Viau encouraged researching the question. Brief discussion ensued. Borchart inquired about how to get the word out about programs and celebrations. Discussion ensued regarding trends and challenges with newspaper, social media, email, and televised news as outlets for advertising. Powers inquired whether the Horticulture Educator position includes full benefits; Viau confirmed the position does include full benefits with prorated leave and costs due to the position being estimated at 80% full-time.

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

**Update:** Horan shared that the UW-Madison Division of Extension head and WCA have been in communication but no updates have been shared. Next steps are being developed. The steering committee is not expected to meet again until 2025.

**Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion:** The monthly e-newsletter went out to all county board members on March 15<sup>th</sup> with upcoming events that could be highlighted. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group is still hiring for paid volunteer childcare providers.

**Comments by Committee Members:** Discussion ensued regarding the need for educating the county board supervisors on issues and how to get that information to them in a format they can access and understand. Committee members encouraged Viau to present at an upcoming county board meeting to educate the current and incoming supervisors on Extension history and activities. Today is International Down Syndrome Day. Horan inquired about pollinator gardens; Viau will share the upcoming state workshop and resources on this topic. Discussion ensued regarding crop planting and current weather conditions. Zellmer requested Kevin Jarek present to the committee soon on the upcoming growing season. Powers suggested Extension get some items included on the May County Tour for new board supervisors.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2024.

**Adjourned:** Horan moved to adjourn at 10:28 a.m.; seconded by Powers. Motion carried 5–0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson