

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, May 18, 2023
James P. Coughlin Center - Volunteer Room
& 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, Madisen Potratz, Mia Ljung, Robin Franitza, and Amy Hendrickson.

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: Powers moved to approve the 4/20/2023 minutes, second by Zellmer. Motion carried 5-0.

Safety Share – Tom Borchart: Borchart called attention to people on electric scooters. Users don't always wear visible clothing, and the scooters can travel at relatively high speeds. Be aware of your surroundings. Be aware of school buses and crossings.

Committee Chair Report: Binder received multiple calls of concern regarding the UW-Oshkosh daycare center closing. Binder is seeking partnerships and resources for funding. Committee members all agreed to support and bring up a resolution at the next county board meeting. Zellmer moved to bring up a resolution at the next county board meeting for the county to allocate \$800,000 from Spirit funds to fund the daycare where space is available; seconded by Powers. **Motion carried 5-0.**

UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates:

- **Community Development** – Ljung reviewed a document that will be shared via email after the meeting. Entrepreneurs of Color Spotlight reached 3,126 individuals via Facebook Live; it's being expanded to Youtube as well. Ljung collaborated with other organizations to coordinate a statewide effort to educate current landowners about the state of farmland in WI, potential future farmers, and alternative land transition options. Ljung is working with the Winnebago County Historical & Archeological Society to update their strategic plan. Ljung is also teaching grant-writing basics workshops with two sessions available in the fall.
- **Horticulture** – Potratz presented on the educational outreach she has conducted in spring 2023 and plans for 2024. There are 111 Master Gardeners in Winnebago County, 45 active Master Gardeners in the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association, and 19 Master Gardeners volunteering under Potratz's supervision for Extension. Volunteer efforts include plant health advising, gardening maintenance, public outreach, and giving educational presentations. Potratz will run programming with FoodWise at Casa Esther in Omro and plans to partner with Land & Water Conservation for rain garden education. Social media efforts have increased to showcase the Sunnyview Community Gardens demonstration plot. Potratz is collaborating with Horticulture Extension in Outagamie County to administer a joint Master Gardener Training Course in fall 2023.

Extension Administration and Department Reports – Chris Viau:

- **Facility Updates:** The outdoor classroom will likely begin the building process this autumn. It will include a chicken coop for ChickQuest demonstrations and raised garden beds. The project will allow collaborative education via 4-H, Horticulture, and FoodWise programming. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of using solar energy for heating and lighting in the future.
- **Staff and Department Updates:** Viau introduced Franitza as our newest Administrative Associate. Meghan Numrich will begin her part-time 4-H Program Summer Assistant role on Monday, May 22nd. Mike Senn will begin his Prison Educator role with Extension Fond du Lac & Corrections on Monday, May 22nd. He will be utilizing a cubicle space in the Extension Winnebago County office and we'll be reimbursed for supplies. Katie Jaegly will begin her Health & Well-Being Educator role on Monday, June 5th. Final interviews for the Regional Dairy Educator position were conducted on Monday, May 14th. An official announcement will be made when available. Kevin Jarek visited the Winnebago County office and Land & Water Conservation department recently to discuss educational opportunities/collaborations. Viau has also been working through the new Priority-Based Budgeting process.
- **Area/Region/State Updates:** Winnebago County staff in the Extension office have been granted a \$0 appointment through UW-Madison Division of Extension that will allow access to more software/resources. Viau and Hendrickson will be collaborating on the effects of these changes for the upcoming budget.

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

Update: Horan provided an overview of the steering committee activities, including updates from Division of Extension leadership and discussion of hot button issues the committee members are seeing. Horan requested feedback related to “sticking points” from the county committee for her to share with the WCA steering committee.

Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding resources for committee members to review to increase awareness of upcoming programming to share. Limited skills using technology and access to various platforms was discussed. Ljung and Hendrickson offered to assist committee members with getting connected. Ljung will make herself available from 8:30am - 9:00am for a basic tech session before the June meeting. Hendrickson will share available tech trainings for committee members.

Comments by Committee Members: None.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Adjourned: Powers moved to adjourn at 11:01 a.m.; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 5–0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson