

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, July 20, 2023**  
**James P. Coughlin Center - Volunteer Room**  
**& Zoom Virtual Meeting**

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

**Members Absent:** Steve Binder.

**Extension Winnebago County Staff:** Chris Viau, Hannah Phillips, Dana Berger, and Robin Franitza.

**Others Present:** None.

**Meeting Called to Order** at 9:00 a.m. by Karen D. Powers.

**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 6/15/2023 minutes, second by Borchart. Motion carried 4-0.

**Safety Share – Tom Borchart:** Borchart reminded everyone to practice caution when grilling outside: remove tripping hazards, practice food safety, ensure the grill is not too close to a building, and don't throw coals in the garbage.

**Committee Chair Report:** Powers inquired whether Viau received a report from Binder. Viau shared that he has been unable to receive emails from any Winnebago County email addresses since mid-June. Powers encouraged everyone to sign up for judging at the Winnebago County Fair.

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

- **FoodWise – Phillips** highlighted a program that Miranda Dawson runs at Ascend (Neenah). Ascend provides supportive apartment housing for young adults with mental health challenges. The program utilized a grant to establish a garden there and incorporates their produce into nutrition programming. FoodWise is exploring programming and funding options to utilize the Outdoor Classroom that 4-H and Horticulture programs are building for this fall. They are considering donating food grown in the Outdoor Classroom to people in need. FoodWise is coordinating a networking session for Area 10 to gather in-person and discuss what programming they are involved in. The goal is to identify cross-program utilization and collaboration rather than duplicating work. Discussion ensued regarding the need for better communication at the county level.

**Extension Administration and Department Reports – Chris Viau:**

- **Facility Updates:** Viau and Berger gave an update on the Outdoor Classroom project. Parks will maintain the grounds. The 40' x 50' area will be staked out after the Fair. They expect to have the chicken run built and the mulch in by September 30th. Discussion ensued regarding construction, storage of supplies, and design.
- **Staff and Department Updates:** Stephanie Bowers joined the team as the Regional Dairy Educator for Winnebago, Outagamie, Oconto, and Shawano counties. Her primary office location will be in Outagamie. Viau gave a brief description of Bowers' background. Viau is working within county deadlines to submit the 2024 department budget request. He will share and review the request at the Extension Committee Meeting following the department budget meeting with the Executive. Viau mentioned there may be changes with UW-Madison Division of Extension funding that could benefit the Winnebago County budget.
- **Area/Region/State Updates:** The state 2023-2025 biennial budget was signed into law with partial vetoes. Viau gave a brief overview of the partial veto related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The state budget also includes wage increases.

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

**Update:** Horan and Viau have been meeting to discuss how WCA and Extension are working towards getting counties and Extension to work together across the state. Discussion ensued regarding differences in the relationships between different counties and Extension and how to show the value of Extension programming to counties that may not yet see the value.

**Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion:** Berger suggested inviting people to attend the Fair and stop by the 4-H Dipper for treats, participate in the basket raffle, and visit the 4-H activity stations (Wednesday - Friday), ChickQuest chick hatching, and various exhibits. Horan noted that the county board meeting has already met, and they did receive a packet of information from the Winnebago County Fair Association. Viau reminded committee members that they are all receiving monthly e-newsletters via email that

contain upcoming Extension events and recaps of programming. Committee members are encouraged to use these newsletters to highlight events at County Board Meetings.

**Comments by Committee Members:** Powers reminded everyone to complete the billboard judging form distributed by Berger before leaving this morning. Powers encouraged everyone to help with Fair judging.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 17, 2023.

**Adjourned:** Horan moved to adjourn at 10:25 a.m.; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 4–0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson