

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, September 15, 2022
James P. Coughlin Center - Volunteer Room
& Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

Members Absent: None.

Extension Winnebago County Staff: Chris Viau and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: Rachael Dowling and Jared Longsine (Diversity Affairs Commission), Donald Nussbaum, Mike Norton, Conley Hanson, Bryan Stafford, and Jacob Floam (Winnebago County Board), Clairelynn Sommersmith (Winnefox Library System), Brian Kopetsky (Elisha D. Smith Public Library - Menasha), Gretchen Raab (Neenah Public Library) Jeff Gilderson-Duwe (Winnefox Library System and Oshkosh Public Library), Amanda O'Neal (Winneconne Public Library), and Julie Stobbe (Carter Memorial Library - Omro).

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: Dowling introduced herself and offered to answer questions related to the DAC. Nussbaum expressed his initial support of the DAC and current support for dissolution. Hanson expressed his support for the dissolution of the DAC.

Approval of Minutes: Horan moved to approve the 8/18/2021 minutes, second by Zellmer. Motion carried 5-0.

Safety Share – Tom Borchart: Borchart shared his observations about electric bicycles and encouraged everyone to be aware of cyclists while out on the road.

Committee Chair Report: Binder recommended anyone in attendance submit their orders for 4-H pizzas.

Winnefox Library Systems Annual Report: Sommersmith distributed the 2023 Winnebago County Library Services Levy Request and the Winnebago County Libraries 2022 Highlights handouts. Sommersmith delivered a brief overview of the 2023 Winnebago County Library Services Levy Request, pending approval by the County Executive. Library directors presented highlights from their respective libraries and programs over the past year. Examples of program materials were passed around for review. Overall, community-building and connection is the goal. Horan, Borchart, and Powers expressed their appreciation for the libraries and their programming.

The Menasha library goal was to encourage users to stay and participate in programming through hands-on learning. In-person programming has started picking back up. SMITHworks initiatives have focused on hands-on learning and give patrons access to tools typically not found at home. redeveloped library storage space to

The Neenah library goal was to transition a variety of programs from virtual to hybrid to in-person formats. Interactive programming included: booklets for summer library program participants to track their reading, kits for patrons to take home to explore new interests, and crafts with the childrens' reading program. The bibliocycle is a mobile book service. Free lunches are provided throughout summer in partnership with the Neenah School District.

The Oshkosh library goal was to be community-driven. They've been collaborating with other agencies that serve the needs of the public to learn where to refer library users and for those agencies to utilize meeting spaces and provide education. One of the old card catalogs has been repurposed as a Comfort Cabinet, providing hygienic items for those in need.

The Winneconne library goal was to be a destination for participants. They've focused on developing a welcoming atmosphere and have seen an increase in attendance over the summer and back-to-school, especially from teens, adults, and patrons from other communities. Circulation increases when program attendance increases.

The Omro library goal was to offer resources, programs, and services to reflect the diverse needs and interests of the community. They've seen an increase in visitors and the number of materials being checked out.

UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates:

- **September 2022 Extension Winnebago County Review document:** Viau referred committee members to the document for this month's educator/program updates.

Extension Administration and Department Reports – Chris Viau:

- **2023 Budget Proposal/Update:** The Executive Budget has not been released yet. Viau will share the 2023 budget request at an upcoming meeting once approved.
- **Facility Updates:** Carpet will be replaced in 2023. Until replacement, Facilities will implement some temporary fixes to reduce trip hazards from bubbled carpet.
- **Staff and Department Updates:** Staff relocations within the office space are nearing completion. Part of the relocation involves cleaning and discarding outdated resources and materials. Madisen Poratz joined Extension Winnebago County on August 29th. She's completing onboarding and will attend a committee meeting in the near future to introduce herself and provide updates. The Regional Crops Educator position is anticipated to be posted in early 2023 and expected to cover 2-3 counties. The Regional Dairy Educator position is anticipated to be posted in early 2023 and expected to cover 3-4 counties. If the 2023 budget and additional request is approved, hiring processes could begin early 2023 for the Health and Well-Being Educator position.
- **Area/Region/State Updates:** As of September 1st, Catherine Neiswender began her role as the Assistant Dean - Southern Areas with University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension.

Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion: Binder offered to announce the 4-H Pizza Sale at the next Winnebago County Board Meeting. Order forms will be brought to the meeting, and consumers may also order online or contact Ashley Rolph at the Extension Winnebago County office. Viau will request a flyer or marketing postcard be made available to show all the options for ordering.

Diversity Affairs Commission:

- **Discussion and possible action of items from the September 8th DAC meeting, which may include Diversity Coordinator Position and Dissolution of the Commission –** Binder moved to postpone discussion and dissolution of the DAC until the November meeting to allow the Winnebago County Board to vote on whether to approve a Diversity Affairs Coordinator position; seconded by Powers. Discussion ensued regarding the dissolution request and the motion to postpone dissolution of the DAC. **Motion passed 4-1.**

Scholarship Task Force Updates: Powers has been ill and unable to collaborate on this. Binder suggested this item remain on the agenda for next month.

Comments by Committee Members: Horan clarified that her position on diversity includes each person's daily walk in life, not just skin color/religion/etc.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held at 9:00am on Thursday, October 20, 2022.

Adjourned: Horan moved to adjourn at 11:22 a.m.; seconded by Zellmer. Motion carried 5–0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson