

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, February 18, 2010
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Susan Locke, Nancy Barker, John Reinert, and Paul Eisen
UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Dan Teuteberg, Nick Schneider, Darlene Kramer, Kristi Cutts, Catherine Neiswender, and René Mehlberg
Others Present: Barb Sheldon, Women Infant & Children (WIC) Director.

Meeting called to order at 9:00a.m. by Vice-Chair Nancy Barker.

Comments from the Public related to items on the Agenda: None

Motion to approve January 21, 2010 meeting minutes by Eisen/Reinert. Motion carried 4-0.

Program Report: Agriculture, Nick Schneider: Schneider shared reports on the research he has done on no-till and red-clover. He also shared the “Heart of the Farm” program brochure, highlighting the history of this effort the past 5-6 years and reviewing the workshops of the 2010 program. Schneider also updated the committee on the “Working Lands Program” sessions, which is a collaboration with Neiswender and Land and Water Conservation.

Nutrient Management yearly classes will start soon, another collaboration with the Land and Water Conservation Department.

Schneider shared copies of his portfolio that unanimously passed through Faculty Tenure Advisory Committee on Monday, February 15. The portfolio demonstrates the current and anticipated work of a tenure candidate. Schneider highlighted the various components of the portfolio.

A Community Gardens update: set with new location with the same number of plots. Garden is currently full, with a waiting list of about 20 gardeners. New enrollment will be limited to 1 plot; returners continue with their number of plots. Referrals are made to private garden owners. Schneider has been working with the City of Oshkosh to secure additional garden locations.

Family Living Education, Kristi Cutts: Cutts’ two areas of emphasis are family financial education and affordable housing. Cutts first highlighted the work of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for low and moderate income families. It was a pilot project for 2009. For 2010 further collaboration has been done with the existing AARP & UW-Oshkosh sites. Primary filing site is at the Oshkosh Senior Center and secondary site at Oshkosh Community Food Pantry. Cutts shared a handout showing a snapshot of the project. There is a broad base of volunteers who are preparing the returns. Cutts helps provide education at tax time including doing a free budgeting workshop at the pantry.

The “Rent Smart” affordable housing workshop, is being held every other month, opposite of Fond du Lac County so people have a monthly option. Cutts shared that she was able to offer the program at Father Carr’s facility in Oshkosh

WNEP, Darlene Kramer & Barb Sheldon: Sheldon provided an overview of the WIC program, which is run through Winnebago County Public Health but serviced at human services buildings in Oshkosh & Neenah. It is a grant funded program through USDA. WNEP provides secondary education of “learn while you wait” sessions on check pick-up days with food samples, hopefully giving families a recipe the children like that the family will make. WIC must provide a second contact during their certification, which WNEP provides. Once people are WIC certified, they get a bookmark with upcoming WNEP topics.

Kramer passed out an updated WNEP brochure to the committee because of the name change at the Federal Level of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed).

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Winnebago County Board Scholarship Program – René Mehlberg: Materials have been sent to the appropriate schools, the Oshkosh Community Foundation to post on their Winnebago County Scholarship site, and materials are posted on the main Winnebago County webpage and the UW-Extension webpage.

UW-Extension – Administration, Chris Kniep:

Letter to David Wilson - response: Kniep shared that Wilson was very appreciative of the letter and he noted it at the last University Committee meeting.

2010 Budget to date: Shared 2010 budget-to-date with not a lot of expenditures.

UWEX Staff/Office Updates: Kniep passed out information on upcoming WACEC meetings: Spring WACEC meeting May 7 in Manitowoc and State WACEC meeting June 22-23, 2010 in Milwaukee.

Comments by Committee Members: None

Next meeting is Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 9:00a.m.

Meeting adjourned by Reinert/Locke at 10:11a.m. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:
René L. Mehlberg, Recording Secretary