

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, January 16th, 2020
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Snider, Mike Brunn, and Tom Borchart.

Members Absent: Karen D. Powers. Steve Binder is excused.

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Viau and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: None.

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Tom Snider. Roll call was taken.

Comments from the Public related to items on the agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes: Borchart moved to approve the 12/19/2019 minutes; seconded by Brunn. Motion carried 3-0.

Safety: Borchart highlighted that flu and cold season is upon us. Everyone is encouraged to practice correct handwashing procedures. Last week's icy conditions one afternoon were a good reminder for exercising awareness and care when walking outside. Take short steps, such as a shuffle or "penguin waddle" to reduce chance for slips and falls.

Program Reports: None.

Committee Chair Report: Snider had no report to share.

UW-Extension – Administration:

Staff Updates/Area Updates: Viau stated that Extension staff in Winnebago County have been very busy with programming. Due to programming schedules after the holidays, no staff were available to present to the committee today. Mandi Dornfeld will have two interns starting soon. Todd Wenzel accepted a 50% Human Development and Relationships Educator position with Brown County, focusing on parenting education. Between Winnebago and Brown counties, he will be a 100% full-time Extension employee.

Department Activities: Viau and Kim Miller will be reviewing the plans for implementing the new Community Garden site to ensure all aspects are considered when partnering with other county departments.

State Activities: The hiring search for the Dean position is being conducted through the Chancellor's office. State staff received a 2% payplan increase as approved by legislature; an additional 2% increase will occur next year. Viau briefly reviewed the history of pay and benefits for state staff. The Title and Total Compensation Review through UW-Madison is still underway. This review is intended to ensure the UW system is competitive regarding hiring and to increase staff retention.

Comments by Extension Staff: None.

Comments by Committee Members: Snider inquired regarding how staff are experiencing the new Windows 10 and Citrix upgrades. Snider and Viau discussed the use of Zooms as a platform for meetings. Chris Acy from the Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance would like to get on a future Extension Committee agenda to present on alien invasive species.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, February 20th, 2020.

Adjourned: Brunn moved to adjourn; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 3-0, 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson