

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, April 20th, 2017
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Snider, Julie Gordon, Al Long, and George Scherck.

UW-Extension Staff: Catherine Neiswender, Allyson Watson, Kris Soper, Christi Beilfuss, Jody Bezio, Mandi Dornfeld, and Amy Timm.

Others Present: None.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Tom Snider.

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

Approval of Minutes: Long moved to approve the 2/16/2017 minutes; seconded by Gordon. Motion carried **4-0**.

Program Reports:

Community Resource Development: Neiswender distributed and briefly reviewed the most recent Community, Natural Resource, and Economic Development Impact Report. Neiswender is still working with *Making the Ride Happen*. This program applied for and was awarded a \$100,000 Easter Seals Grant for Rural Transportation. Neiswender introduced Allyson Watson, our Interim 50% CRD Educator. She is providing a 50% backfill for Neiswender and works 50% in Outagamie County. Watson has been working on reaching out to establish relationships with partners in Winnebago and Outagamie Counties. Watson has been working closely with the cities of Omro, DePere, and Black Creek on the *Gaining and Retaining Young Adults* research program.

FoodWise: Beilfuss introduced herself as the Interim FoodWise Coordinator for Winnebago, Outagamie, and Calumet counties. Beilfuss distributed and briefly explained the FoodWise program brochure. FoodWise currently works with 11 schools and is expected to expand programming to Emmaline Cook Elementary School beginning October 1, 2017. The program is seeing an increase of students on free or reduced lunch from about 50% to 75-80%. FoodWise is partnering with the Master Gardener program to provide *Container Gardening* classes for youth and education for adults to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Soper has been working primarily with second grade classes but has also begun working with fifth grade classes over this past year. Soper briefly demonstrated a program adapted from Wood County that educates youth about how much sugar is in their favorite beverages and teaches healthier alternatives. FoodWise will be partnering with Winnebago County and Outagamie County HeadStart locations to work with parents on food and nutrition education in 2018. Beilfuss circulated the 2018 FoodWise Winnebago County Agreement Letter to the committee to sign.

Family Living: Dornfeld is part of the steering committee with New Mental Health Connection, promoting Mental Health Awareness Month. Dornfeld attended the *Trauma Informed Care Conference* last week. UWEX will partner with United Way to provide a community-wide *ACE Screening* to gain more information about our area. A study in San Francisco that completed ACE screening revealed a reduction in ER visits and a savings of \$5 million dollars in one year after participants shared their ACE results with their Primary Care Physician. Dornfeld distributed a State of the Fox Valley Child: Birth to Five booklet. Due to recent changes with immigration and deportation, Dornfeld examined how to encourage individuals who may be undocumented to attend programs. UWEX has been working on providing programs at places considered "safe locations" that also meet accessibility requirements. Dornfeld distributed a Fact Sheet for Families and School Staff: Limitations on DHS Immigration Enforcement Actions at Sensitive Locations handout that explains more about this topic.

Committee Chair Report: Snider had no report to share. Snider recognized the Cooperative Connections Newsletter being distributed monthly by Timm.

UW-Extension – Administration: Neiswender shared notes for the committee written by Chris Kniep:

Staff Updates: UWEX is fully staffed. Allyson Watson, Jody Bezio, and Christi Beilfuss introduced themselves to the committee. The committee introduced themselves to the new UWEX staff. Neiswender and Kniep expressed appreciation to Scherck for helping with the interviews.

Department Activities: Kniep and Timm attended the Winnebago County Budget Kick-Off Meeting on April 18th. Our direction is to maintain a flat budget except for salary and fringe benefits. This must be kept in mind with projected nEXT Generation changes. Kniep and Sarah Thompson received a high number of County Board Scholarship applications. Thompson and Carol Hollmaier have been processing them and are completing next steps.

nEXT Generation: Timm has been sharing nEXT Generation Updates with the committee as UWEX receives them. Neiswender reviewed that Dave Berard has been named the Assistant Dean for northern WI, and Matt Hanson has been named the Assistant Dean for southern WI. The position description for the 18 Area Extension Directors was posted last week. We have yet to see position descriptions for the remaining positions or decisions regarding program areas.

Comments by Committee Members: Snider suggested inviting Karl Martin to the May Extension Committee Meeting. If he is unavailable, Neiswender suggested inviting one of the new Assistant Deans. Gordon shared that the Oshkosh Farmers Market Committee will be handing out \$10 coupons for 8th graders to purchase goods at the Oshkosh Farmers Market. Gordon also explained that the Oshkosh Farmers Market Committee offers free booth space at the farmers market for non-profit groups, suggesting this may be a good opportunity for FoodWise.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, May 18th, 2017.

Adjourned: Gordon moved to adjourn; seconded by Long. Motion carried **4-0**, 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Amy Timm