

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, May 21st, 2020**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:** Tom Snider, Tom Borchart, Steve Binder, Karen D. Powers, and Michael Brunn.

**Members Absent:** None.

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Viau, Kim Miller, Dana Berger, Sarah Thompson, Mandi Dornfeld, Kris Soper, Hannah Phillips, Mia Ljung, and Amy Hendrickson.

**Others Present:** Winnebago County Fair Association representatives Matt Neuman (Vice President) and Mike Domke (President).

**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:** Brunn moved to approve the 2/20/2020 minutes; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 5-0.

**Winnebago County Fair Association:** Domke shared concerns related to COVID-19 and the decision whether to hold the fair this year. Committee members weighed in on safety concerns and ideas. Fair association and committee members discussed financial aspects of having or not having the fair. Snider requested putting the Winnebago County Fair Association on the June Extension Committee Meeting agenda and having a final decision regarding the fair by this meeting. Domke agreed to examine the financial aspects and have a decision by next month's meeting. Snider confirmed that a special meeting before the next Extension Committee Meeting can be called if needed.

**2020 FoodWise Impact Report:** Viau briefly introduced the FoodWise team and directed the committee to two documents developed by FoodWise for review. The impact report highlights various FoodWise programming over the 2019-2020 year. Phillips and Soper summarized their involvement with various FoodWise projects in the impact report. Phillips introduced herself to the committee and gave a brief description of her position as the FoodWise Healthy Communities Coordinator. Phillips reviewed her work with the ASCEND project, community group meetings, and various community organizations involved with healthy food and food security. During her first year in this position, Phillips' focus was on building relationships within the community and with organizations who may be interested in implementing FoodWise programming. Soper reviewed the shift in focus to family-wide programming over the past three years. Soper has been involved with school programming, grocery store tours, and food pantry work. Viau highlighted the teamwork amongst the FoodWise team serving multiple counties.

**2021 FoodWise Agreement – Recommendation to Enter into Agreement:** Viau introduced the 2021 FoodWise Agreement with the request for the committee to recommend the county enter into agreement with FoodWise for the 2020-2021 year. The agreement requests continued support from the county in regards to providing physical space, administrative support from county support staff, and minimal office supplies for FoodWise staff. The agreement also outlines the locations of FoodWise programming. Snider put forward a motion to recommend Winnebago County enter into the 2021 FoodWise Agreement. Powers moved; seconded by Borchart. The motion passed **5-0**.

**Program Reports:** Viau directed the committee to the May 2020 Extension Winnebago County in Review document for summaries of educator program updates. Extension staff present shared their reviews.

**Human Development & Relationships:** Dornfeld has been transitioning Human Development & Relationships and Health & Well-Being programming to alternate means during this time of COVID-19. One focus has been reaching isolated adults through phone pals, postcards, newsletters, and providing Zoom resources. Dornfeld reviewed the ways she and Sandy Bell, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Coordinator, have been staying connected with and providing resources for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group. Dornfeld is planning to continue online programming through the fall. Dornfeld is part of a statewide team that applied for and was awarded a Baldwin Grant of \$150,000 to bring a new parenting program to the county.

**Horticulture:** Miller shared that due to current Covid related restrictions, the Master Gardener program has suspended the volunteer hours requirements for volunteers; the continuing education hours are still required. The Master Gardener program has been using this time to transition programming to online means. Miller expressed appreciation for Melanie Leet from the Land & Water Conservation Department, who has been Miller's "feet on the

ground” with the Community Gardens while Miller is unable to do on-site work. The Community Gardens are tentatively planned to open next Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, pending weather, the ability for the Highway Department to finish their work, and the pinning of the gardens. Miller reviewed the work to be completed by the Hwy. Dept. It is expected that all budgeted funds for the Community Gardens will be utilized.

**4-H Youth Development:** Berger has been focusing on volunteer support and youth engagement during the pandemic. This has involved alternative formats for training and projects for youth to do, primarily online, including 4-H Fun in 15 Minutes or Less videos and virtual club meetings. Berger expressed her appreciation to Binder for helping with the 4-H Scholarships. Berger is also investigating ways to promote 4-H in the local schools.

**Community Development:** Ljung has been working reduced hours due to childcare needs. Fit Oshkosh, Ljung’s partner for the Coworking Space, closed their doors on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The challenge is how to continue supporting this project without that partnership. Ljung has been involved with Homegrown Entrepreneurship in Our Community to conduct some workshops via Zoom. Ljung has been collaborating with Miller regarding the Community Gardens to ensure translation services are available. She conducted a grant-writing workshop in collaboration with Brown County. Ljung has been facilitating the 21 Day Racial Equity Challenge in the Winnebago County office as well.

**4-H Youth & Science:** Thompson has been collaborating with several other counties for virtual planning. The Fashion ReVue will be held via Zoom on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Per Snider’s request, Thompson will send the Zoom link to the committee members to join if they would like. Another focus has been on building leadership skills for middle schoolers who are usually Cloverbud Camp counselors. Thompson has been organizing STEM units in preparation for going back into the schools when they open back up. Thompson has also been attending various virtual meetings and training sessions during the pandemic.

Viau shared that Todd Wenzel was unavailable for this meeting due to attending a multi-day training session. Viau shared that John Thompson has been focusing on education opportunities while he telecommutes from Pennsylvania. Snider expressed appreciation for the Educator Program Updates document provided to the committee.

**Committee Chair Report:** Snider shared that Binder, Brunn, and himself were reappointed to the UW Oshkosh Fox Cities Campus Board of Trustees; Winnebago County will be the chair for the next two years. There has been a request from someone on the County Board for the development of a Diversity Committee. Binder clarified that the Diversity Committee has been meeting and wants support in order to be recognized as a committee by the County Board. Dornfeld, Ljung, Berger, and Soper all expressed their interest in the Diversity Committee. Brunn suggested committee members attend the State Convention breakout session regarding diversity on county boards. Snider inquired about changes to the Winnebago County Scholarship process this year due to COVID-19. Thompson suggested checking with the County Clerk’s office for more information.

#### **UW-Extension – Administration:**

**Staff Updates:** Viau has been working with all four counties’ staff regarding staff needs and county and Extension procedures for getting staff remote access. Offices are still operating and staff are all still working though most of the work is being done remotely.

**Facility Updates:** Although the J.P. Coughlin Center is closed to the public and departments are available by appointment only, Extension has still maintained a staff presence in the office via county staff. Meeting rooms are currently limited to county use only. Cleaning supplies are still in short supply. Cleaning procedures for meeting rooms are under development. Viau has been approved by the Dean to visit each of the four county offices to assess spacing and other needs to plan for the offices to reopen safely to the public. Viau described some of the changes being made in the offices to reduce contact between staff and with common items.

**Department Activities:** Viau and Hendrickson will be working on the 2021 Budget over the next two months. They will also be reviewing the current status of the 2020 Budget.

**Area/Region/State Updates:** Division of Extension staff are all under telecommuting agreements through at least the end of June. More information will be shared when it becomes available. The UW Madison System has been ordered to make a 5% reduction of expenses through the end of the fiscal year. As a result, all UW Madison System staff will be taking between 3-6 furlough days between May 15<sup>th</sup> – October 30<sup>th</sup>. Counties will receive a rebate for the county’s portion of the Extension staff furloughs with the second installment of the contracted services bill this fall.

**Comments by Committee Members:** Borchart expressed recognition for Extension staff finding new ways to operate and deliver programming during these difficult times. Snider expressed his appreciation for the patience of all in attendance.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Adjourned:** Brunn moved to adjourn; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 5-0, 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson