

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

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

**UW-Extension Staff:** Matt Hanson (University of Wisconsin – Extension), Chris Kniep, Kim Miller, Darrell McCauley, Mandi Dornfeld, Jody Bezio, and Amy Timm.

**Others Present:** Tim Widener and Winnefox Library Representatives: Jeff Gilderson – Duwe (Oshkosh Public Library and Winnefox Library System), Mark Arend (Winnefox Library System), Holly Selwitschka (Winneconne Public Library), Gretchen Raab (Neenah Public Library), Julie Stobbe (Omro Public Library), and Vicki Lenz (Menasha Public Library).

**Meeting called to order** at 9:01 a.m. by Tom Snider.

**Comments from the Public related to items on the agenda:** Introductions were made for all present. Widener extended his support of the Winnefox Library System.

**Approval of Minutes:** Long moved to approve the 5/18/2017 minutes; seconded by Gordon. Motion carried **4-0**.

**Program Reports:**

**Winnefox Library:** Gilderson-Duwe distributed a Winnebago County Libraries 2017 Highlights handout. Gilderson-Duwe reviewed the logistics of the library budget and the 5-Year Agreement expiring in 2019. Timm and Arend distributed the 2018 Winnebago County Library Services Levy Request. Gilderson-Duwe reviewed the 5 parts of the levy request and summarized the total 2018 budget request. Gilderson-Duwe requested the support of the Extension Committee. Scherck moved and Gordon seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Gordon – aye, Scherck – aye, Long – aye, Snider – aye. Motion carried **4-0** in favor of supporting the 2018 Winnebago County Library Services Levy Request. Library Representatives shared summaries of the events and foci of their respective libraries. Gilderson-Duwe shared that the theme of Oshkosh Public Library is community engagement. Selwitschka shared that the Winneconne Public Library has collaborated with various community partners to host various events with the focus of bringing people together. Raab distributed folders of Neenah Public Library materials and reviewed the improvements to their facility, successful programming, and new partnerships. Stobbe reviewed new programs at the Omro Public Library that have increased community participation. Lenz reviewed some of the highlights from the Menasha Public Library programs. Arend highlighted the overall theme of community engagement within the Winnefox Library System. One of the Winnefox programs going strong is the Free Legal Clinics offering assistance for individuals seeking legal advice. The Winnefox Library System representatives expressed their appreciation for the continued support of the committee. Kniep expressed appreciation to the libraries for the work they do in the communities, the beautiful facilities they provide for UW-Extension (UWEX) programs, and the great promoting they do for UWEX programs.

**nEXT Generation:** Hanson, Assistant Dean, introduced himself to the committee and explained his history with Extension. Hanson reviewed the nEXT Generation reorganization model and process. Hanson shared a PowerPoint presentation summarizing several aspects of the nEXT Generation model, including financial rationale, position types, examples of how services may be delivered at local and state levels, and a timeline of key milestones for the nEXT Generation reorganization process. Extended offers have begun for Area Extension Directors and will be announced soon. A date will be announced soon for a webinar being hosted by Dean, Karl Martin.

Hanson opened discussion for suggestions. Kniep expressed concerns about the proposed fee structure for the counties. She proposed having the same fee for each position at the county level. The current structure contains differences in fees for staff at the county level, which sends the very strong message that some positions are worth more than others and also reflects gender disparities in position salaries according to program area. Kniep is proposing all 7 full-time positions for Winnebago County currently staffed in Winnebago County be included in the 133 Contract. Four positions remaining co-funded by the county and state and 3 funded by Winnebago County: 2 Agricultural Educators (AG and Hort.), 2 Community Educators, 2 Youth and Family Educators, and 1 4-H Coordinator. Dornfeld, Kniep, Miller, McCauley, Bezio, Snider, Scherck, and Widener shared concerns about displacing staff who have strong community connections, are committed to staying with UW-Extension, and are doing quality work. According to the current structure, Interim staff (Bezio and Allyson Watson) and staff who are fully funded by the county (Dornfeld and Sarah Thompson) are not allowed to apply for positions within nEXT Generation during the first round of hiring because they are not considered internal candidates. Scherck questioned what the next steps will be for UWEX staff and Extension Committee members to promote the suggested changes discussed. Hanson welcomed continued feedback and discussion.

**Committee Chair Report:** Snider had no formal report to share.

**UW-Extension – Administration:**

**2018 Budget Proposal:** Kniep will submit the 2018 Budget Proposal by June 30, 2017. The proposal will include two options for explaining staffing, depending on future nEXT Generation decisions. Both will reflect the current 7 educator positions.

**Staff Updates:** Kniep shared that Ashley Rolph, Administrative Associate, is back from her maternity leave, so UWEX support staff is back at full capacity.

**Department Activities:** *Breakfast on the Farm* last Saturday was a success with 2,991 attendees. Kniep thanked committee members for doing the *Winnebago County Board Scholarship* presentations within the schools. It has been suggested to dedicate the *Rain Gardens* to Nancy Barker in honor of her many years of service to UW-Extension and the Land and Water Conservation Department. Snider will work with Miller to decide whether the *Rain Gardens* will be dedicated to her or named after her to allow for signage to be ordered appropriately. 4-H Youth Development has received the incentive of a \$5,000 anonymous donation to establish a foundation with the Oshkosh Community Foundation if 4-H can raise funds to match the donation by October 1, 2017. Fundraising is in the works.

**Comments by Committee Members:** Scherck expressed appreciation to Kniep for her work in Winnebago County.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Snider will not be present, so it was suggested to reschedule for Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Committee members will confirm with their schedules, and Timm will email the committee with the decision.

**Adjourned:** Long moved to adjourn; seconded by Scherck. Motion carried **3-0**, 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Timm