

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, July 21st, 2016
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Snider, Julie Gordon, Alvin Long, George Scherck, and Nancy Barker.

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Sarah Thompson, Darrell McCauley, and Amy Timm.

Others Present: Tom Egan (Winnebago County Fair Association).

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Tom Snider.

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

Approval of Minutes: Scherck moved to approve the 6/16/ 2016 minutes; seconded by Long. Motion carried **5-0**.

Program Reports:

Winnebago County Fair: Egan reviewed the *2016 Winnebago County Fair* brochure. There are a variety of features at the fair this year, including the carnival, barrel racing, bull riding, Furturity Dairy show, Dock Dogs shows, and a country music performance by Chase Bryant. The fair starts on Wednesday, August 3rd instead of the usual Tuesday start date. Judging starts Monday and goes through the week. Egan invited and encouraged the board members to judge at the fair. Egan and Kniep provided an explanation of the Fair Association's role and connection with UW-Extension and the County Board, including the history of location, ownership, financials, and partnerships. Kniep shared that the link with UWEX is the focus on education and youth being able to publicly display what they've learned. Kniep encouraged the board members to come to the fair and get a tour from a UWEX staff member to see the fair through the eyes of UWEX.

Agriculture Programs: McCauley provided an overview of his programming and his involvement in various activities. The majority of programs focus on protecting and improving water and soil quality, developing urban-rural connections, and providing research-based education. AG programs require partnership with FSA (Farm Service Agency), LWC (Land & Water Conservation), DNR (Department of Natural Resources), and NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). Another partnership coming to Winnebago County this fall is the Agency Farmer Interface Coalition. AFIC is a discussion between agencies and farmers to improve communication and increase implementation of farm practices that protect soil and water. AG education programs use University research to update farmers, implement current practices, and show farmers what's possible with new technology and strategies. Examples of these programs include *Nutrient Management* and *Pesticide Applicator Training*. *Tractor Safety* provides a federal and state certificate that allows youth to work on non-family farms. An example of an event focused on urban-rural connection is *Breakfast on the Farm*. The *Community Garden* project allows people in the community to grow their own produce. Grant funds allowed the re-hire of Tou Veu, who has been essential for interpretation and establishing relationships with the Hmong population working in the garden.

Horticulture Programs: Miller is unable to present this morning. Her presentation will be rescheduled.

4-H Youth Development Programs: Thompson highlighted her partnership with Oberstadt to provide educational development programs for youth in the community. Today is the launch day for *4-H Summer Camp*, where about 100 youth will be at Upham Woods for the weekend. *Cloverbud Camp* was last week, where older youth served as counselors for the younger youth and showed them some examples of the various projects 4-H has to offer. Thompson reviewed the support UWEX provides in preparation for the *Winnebago County Fair* and encouraged the committee to get involved by judging, attending meat sales, and participating in other events. The Spotlight Stage is a new area that will be used to showcase youth exhibits and performances for audiences. Thompson has been very active with *STEM* (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) and *Lego Robotics*, and EV3 kits are currently being shared with partners in the community.

Committee Chair Report: Snider shared that the development of an appropriate response and resolution for nEXT Generation is still in progress. Snider and Kniep will develop a response/resolution for Winnebago County for the next Extension Committee meeting. Kniep emphasized that Winnebago County UWEX is willing and capable of implementing change, but there is concern that the individuals making decisions have not had a local presence to see what our county office does. Snider encouraged the committee to attend the Legislative Committee Meeting next week Monday.

UW-Extension – Administration:

2017 Budget Proposal – Draft Proposal: Kniep distributed and reviewed the 2017 Budget Proposal Draft. It does not reflect the potential changes with nEXT Generation. The proposal meets the budget target for the department – a 2% increase from 2016. It was noted that the budget total for 2016 included carryovers into 2016 for completion of the new fair building and the hearing loop in the conference room. The Extension Committee members will receive a finalized proposal once it's complete.

WACEC State Meeting: The 2016 WACEC meeting was 6/20/2016 and 6/21/2016 in Wausau.

WACEC Regional Officers: Kniep explained that WACEC is looking for individuals to take on leadership positions with the organization.

nEXT Generation: Kniep summarized nEXT Generation updates announced at the WACEC meeting. Staffing changes due to nEXT Generation will not be announced until February 2017. As a result, changes won't be implemented until the July 2017 fiscal year.

Staff Updates: Kniep shared that interviews have been completed to fill the open Support Staff position. Background checks and a letter of offer are in progress. The new hire is expected to start early in August. Position responsibilities have been updated to support changing needs. Rolph will maintain meeting room responsibilities. The new Support Staff member will dedicate part of their time to social media and marketing of UWEX. The WNEP Coordinator position is still open.

Department Activities: Kniep announced the completion of the *Rain Garden* and expressed appreciation for all the volunteers who helped to make it a success. Kniep has been involved in judging at other county fairs, which allows for continued connection with youth and opportunities to provide education.

Comments by Committee Members: None.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, August 18th, 2016.

Adjourned: Long moved to adjourn; seconded by Gordon. Motion carried **5-0**, 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Timm