

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Tom Snider, Steve Binder, and George Scherck; later joined by Julie Gordon.

**UW-Extension Staff:** Catherine Neiswender, Chad Cook, and Amy Hendrickson.

**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:** Binder moved to approve the 10/19/2017 minutes; seconded by Scherck. Motion carried **3-0**.

**Program Reports:**

**Natural Resources:** Cook presented an annual update on his Natural Resources programming. Cook's work focuses mainly on water quality, particularly within the Lower Fox Watershed. This watershed has a number of pollutant-related challenges, but a combination of efforts and significant investment is helping to make progress. Various organizations are involved in helping farmers to change agricultural practices to improve water quality and reduce the pollutant loads to the Fox River and Green Bay. Several organizations have farming equipment available for farmers to use as a means to try new practices to increase their own soil quality while also benefitting water quality. Cook reports an increasing trend of farmers implementing new practices and updating their equipment, which should result in positive watershed changes. A lake management plan is being developed for Lake Winnebago and the other Pool Lakes and small watershed plans are being developed/implemented in communities, which will in turn affect the larger watersheds of the Upper Fox and Wolf Rivers. Regarding shoreline erosion, practices are in place to manage flooding and reestablish natural shorelines, but are limited by funding. Cook shared that with the nEXT Generation reorganization he has taken on the role for 2018 of Interim Co-Director of the Environmental Resources Center, which is a partnership between UW-Madison and UW-Extension.

**Committee Chair Report:**

**Nancy Barker Garden Plaque:** Snider distributed a handout of the proposal for the Nancy Barker Educational Garden sign. Members indicated a need to change the wording from "UW Education Extension and Agriculture Committee" to "UW Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee". Snider opened a motion to approve the proposed sign. Scherck moved to approve with the aforementioned changes; Binder seconded. Motion carried **3-0**. Snider will partner with Tom Davies from Land & Water to produce the sign.

**UW-Extension – Administration:**

**Contracts, MOU, and Space Agreement:** Neiswender distributed a packet of information to the committee. One element of the packet is a cover letter recognizing committee members for their support. The Space Agreement is an agreement for Winnebago County to continue providing space for the Area Extension Director, Catherine Neiswender, within the Winnebago County UWEX office. No additional requests for space or supplies are being made. Neiswender has technology equipment and office supply costs provided by the state. Hendrickson will continue providing administrative support for Neiswender for Winnebago County. The Memorandum of Understanding draft proposes responsibilities of both Cooperative Extension and Winnebago County. In 2018, Winnebago County Extension Educators will develop an individual Annual Plan of Work and an overall Area Annual Plan for educational programming and leveraging resources. Neiswender encouraged committee members to review the MOU information and the committee can review again at the December meeting. The annual Agent Salaries 133 Contract is being updated, and a draft 136 Contract will be delivered at the December meeting for approval. The new contract will be effective January 1, 2018. The state has approved full-time positions for CRD Educators in both Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. Neiswender reviewed possibilities for how to fill the position in Winnebago County. The committee agreed they would prefer hiring someone who has already been involved with UWEX as opposed to an open hiring process, depending on whether the potential candidates would be a good fit. Neiswender suggested tying an informal interview process to the December Extension Committee Meeting for the committee to review the potential candidates. Per Scherck's request, Neiswender briefly explained the joining of UWEX with UW-Madison.

**Farm Tech Days Scholarship Fund Update:** Neiswender reviewed the Farm Tech Days Scholarship Fund document distributed at the October meeting. The current fund balance is about \$64,000. The committee has the option of increasing the funding given out each year while still remaining within the Community Foundation Spending Policies. **The committee moved to continue their involvement with the scholarship fund, to change the**

**distribution to match the Community Foundation Spending Policy, to increase the scholarship minimums to \$1,000, and maintain the distribution of total funds of 25% each to 4-H and FFA. Scherck moved to approve; seconded by Gordon. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Action Item – Budget Transfer from Various Expense Accounts to Cover \$22,612 Increase in Fringe Benefits:**

Neiswender distributed and reviewed the Budget Transfer form for redistributing UWEX funds. Binder moved to approve the budget transfer; seconded by Gordon. Motion carried **4-0**. Neiswender will take the Budget Transfer to the P&F Committee and then the County Board in December.

**Comments by Committee Members:** None.

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting will take place on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at 9:00 am.

**Adjourned:** Binder moved to adjourn, seconded by Snider. Motion carried **4-0**, 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Hendrickson