

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, December 21th, 2017
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

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

UW-Extension Staff: Catherine Neiswender, Kim Miller, Sarah Thompson, Mandi Dornfeld, and Ashley Rolph.

Others Present: Tom Egan (Fair Association 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: Gordon moved to approve the 11/18/2017 minutes; seconded by Scherck. Motion carried **5-0**.

Program Reports:

Horticulture: Miller shared the *Master Gardener* annual report for 2017. This year, Master Gardener Volunteers have put in over 7,000 volunteer hours in Winnebago County. Their volunteer services are valued at \$165,386 this year. Miller highlighted the hours Master Gardener Volunteers put in this year with the *Plant Health project*. There were 245 inquiries regarding horticulture issues, with trees still being the number one concern people in Winnebago County call Plant Health Advisers about. Miller shared that Neenah Mayor Dean Kaufert took the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge committing future resources and care for the Neenah Public Library Butterfly Garden project. Miller reviewed the requirements for becoming a Master Gardener in Winnebago County and the various benefits they provide to UWEX and the community. Miller proceeded to talk about the Community Gardens that UWEX has a lease with, 2018 being the last year on this lease. She explained that the location leased out for the Community Gardens have had several issues with flooding plots, soil conditions, and maintenance issues. UWEX is unsure if they will continue the lease with this location once it has expired.

4-H Youth and Science: Thompson highlighted the work she has been doing this year with the schools in Winnebago County using STEM and Lego Robotic kits. She has continued work at many schools in Oshkosh and Menasha, and has begun work at six new schools this semester. Thompson stated that she recently has been working with the Oshkosh STEM Network and she is excited to have connections and hopes to provide guest speakers and field trips to her STEM work, in particular with Lego Club. National Youth Science Day was celebrated in October. We will be hosting the Incredible Wearables activity later this winter. Thompson reported that Summer Camp Counselor Training took place recently. 4-H Summer camp will be July 5th through July 8th, 2018.

Family Living: Dornfeld provided a small preview of her report for the January meeting, highlighting that they are working on the new Trauma Data for Winnebago County. Dornfeld reported that studies have found that the suicide rates of high school students in Winnebago County have doubled. A grant has been issued to Winnebago County from the Health department to work on this data. Dornfeld has been asked to be of part of Sources of Strength and will be leading Winnebago County schools through the process of mapping the data and finding out which kids have adult influences in their lives and who they are.

Fair Association: Egan distributed the 2017 Accounting Report for the Winnebago County Fair Association and went over the expenses. Egan highlighted that the Fair did lose about \$3000 due to two days of rain. Camping site rental numbers were up this year.

Egan highlighted that they have hired two new fair directors for the 2018 year. There will be two music acts again for 2018—one rock performance and one country performance.

Committee Chair Report: Nothing to report.

UW-Extension – Administration:

Action Item- 2018 Contract- Neiswender distributed and walked through the 2018 contract for state paid employees. She stated that the contract is following the county budget cycle this year instead of the state budget cycle. Employees are contracted as follows: Darrell McCauley for Agriculture, Jody Bezio for 4-H Youth and Family, and Kimberly Miller as Horticulture Educator. The Communities Extension Educator position will be filled later in 2018, but we are investigating having Allyson Watson continue to cover a small bit of programming in Winnebago until a person is hired. Allyson Watson will begin in Outagamie 100% in 2018. County employees are not listed on this contract. Schreck moved to sign the contract, Gordon seconded motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Staff Updates: Neiswender stated that she is very pleased with the staff in Winnebago County and how well they work with each other. Neiswender has been in the Area Extension Director position since July and she believes that Winnebago County has made that transition very pleasant and easy. Neiswender has been working with Dornfeld to cover the areas of Family Living that are missing without Kniep's position.

Scholarship Update: Neiswender distributed and went over the Farm Progress Scholarship fund update to the agreement with the Community Foundation. Signature needed by committee members.

2017 Meeting Dates: Neiswender distributed a draft of 2018 Extension Committee meeting dates.

Comments by Committee Members: None.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, January 18th, 2018.

Adjourned: Snider moved to adjourn; seconded by Schreck. Motion carried **5-0**, 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ashley Rolph