

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, April 16, 2009
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Susan Locke, Paul Eisen, Nancy Barker and John Reinert.
UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Catherine Neiswender, Dan Teuteberg, and René Mehlberg.

Meeting called to order at 9:01a.m. by Chair Tom Widener.

Comments from the Public related to items on the Agenda: None

Motion to approve March 19, 2009 meeting minutes by Reinert/Barker. Motion carried 5-0.

Department Updates - Chris Kniep

2008 Budget Update – transfer: There is a budget transfer on the April 21 County's Board meeting agenda. It has to do with the Aquatic Invasive Species grant. Final accounting for 2008 activities were received in 2009 but must be recorded as 2008 expenditure. The income for this project received in 2009 will be recorded as a 2009 receipt. The department still stayed under budget for 2008..

UWEX Updates: 2009 Budget of income and expenses to-date was shared. Open clerical position is still pending. Kniep is working with Karon Kraft and Mark Harris to hire a Limited Term Employee for summer duties including fair responsibilities. State budget is tight; Kniep is on a state UW-Extension committee looking at how to approach the budget shortfall. One direct impact is the Basin Education program has lost its funding, but is actively looking for new funding sources to continue.

Scholarship Program: Mehlberg reported that 42 essays came in from 12 different schools by the deadline. Essays that met the eligibility criteria had personal identifying information removed, a unique code listed, and sent to UW Fox Valley to rank and review. Comments from reviewers on the new process were also shared. Notification of results will come from the County Clerk's office. Kniep shared comments from Jim Perry thanking the Extension Committee for the Scholarship Program.

2008 Annual Report: Neiswender passed out copies of the completed report and said that it's also posted on the web. Copies will be put on County Board Supervisors desks for the next County Board meeting. Widener will highlight the report at the County Board meeting on Tuesday, April 21.

WACEC Meeting: State WACEC meeting registration has been received. The county van will be going on Monday, June 15 and leaving after lunch on Tuesday to get back for the County Board meeting. Kniep will get permission from Chair Albrecht for members' attendance. Kniep will collect registration forms and forward to the County Clerk for processing. Reply to Kniep by May 14 if attending. Members will make own hotel reservations.

Construction on County Road Y will be ongoing throughout the summer. There are updates on the County and UWEX websites.

UW-Fox Valley Update: Widener gave an update on the elevator project. Winnebago County has passed funding for the project, but Outagamie County has not. Outagamie County will be revisiting and voting on the issue on April 28.

UW Fox Valley would like to expand the nursing program, but currently has no funds for the project. Widener brought up the question of the mission of UW Fox Valley of being a community college or expanding to a 4-year university.

Program Reports: 4-H Youth Development – René Mehlberg & Dan Teuteberg: Teuteberg shared that the plan of work for the 4-H Youth Development staff is GROW Winnebago County 4-H. Teuteberg highlighted programs in Menasha. Soaring Nighthawks 4-H club with 42 members is a new club at Nicolet Elementary School in Menasha that meets during the school day. Club is led by two teachers who are 4-H alumni. Long

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term plan is to transition the club to a night 4-H community club. He shared that members have already participated in ongoing 4-H educational programs such as the 4-H sponsored speaking contest. In addition, twice a month he does a science program with the entire school. These science programs are then replicated into the Neenah after school program.

Mehlberg shared about volunteer development specifically highlighting the work of current UW-Oshkosh intern. The intern has experienced working with volunteers and educational program development. In addition, community resources are being tapped into to provide an added benefit to existing 4-H volunteers. Two 4-H volunteers are serving a minimum time AmeriCorps placement through UW-Extension. There is no cost for having them as AmeriCorps members; they receive an educational award; and they are able to complete additional tasks as they are contracted to serve 300 hours through their AmeriCorps placement.

Teuteberg reported that a Met Life grant of \$1,000 for 2009 after school staff training was received. Teuteberg requires staff development training when working with after school sites. Teuteberg and Mehlberg presented at the Wisconsin Afterschool Conference with a topic from after school training sessions. Mehlberg shared the resource that was developed, which received an association award for Teuteberg, Mehlberg, and Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator in Calumet County.

Last, Mehlberg shared the Ridgeway community service project of creating a children's area at the new Oshkosh Community Pantry and birthday food packages for children to receive on their birthdays.

Family Living Education – Chris Kniep: Kniep has been involved in the development of the Oshkosh area community-wide food pantry over the past few years and currently serves on the board. The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry will be located at the newly purchased St. Vincent DePaul building, the former COPPS, on Jackson Street. There is now a bus stop there. The grand opening of the new Oshkosh Area Community Pantry is Friday, April 24, 2009 at 8:45a.m.

Kniep distributed Family Living Education Focus 2008, a handout illustrating how responsibilities are split between Kniep and Cutts and a brochure on Family Living Programs to send to potential speaker requests

In March Kniep started her 26th year as the Winnebago County Family Living Educator. Working with the Home and Community Education (HCE) group is a responsibility she has come back to since Cutts started.. The HCE annual banquet is on May 7. Entertainment is being provided by an HCE member and her family who wrote a book about family recipes and the stories behind them. She also shared materials of leader training programs done through HCE including topics covered, the educational materials included, and the outline for the leader who attended training to use to share the information back with their club.

Kniep shared that the Rent Smart program has been taught in Oshkosh for many years. Last year Winnebago County Educators were asked to be part of a state team to revise the Rent Smart curriculum, which was completed last December. Kniep has been doing statewide training on the curriculum, and has been chosen as a presentation topic for the May UW Colleges Colloquium at UW Fox Valley.

Comments by Committee Members: None

Next meeting is Thursday, May 21 at 9:00a.m. with Neiswender as the UW-Extension lead.

Meeting adjourned by Barker/Locke at 10:40a.m. Motion passed 4-0. (Eisen left at 10:30a.m.)

Respectfully Submitted by:
René L. Mehlberg, Recording Secretary