

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, May 21, 2009
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Susan Locke, Paul Eisen, Nancy Barker, and John Reinert.
UW-Extension Staff: Catherine Neiswender, Nick Schneider, Dan Teuteberg, Kristi Cutts, and René Mehlberg. **Others present:** David Albrecht, County Board Chair.

Meeting called to order at 8:58a.m. by Chair Tom Widener.

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

Motion to approve April 16, 2009 meeting minutes by Eisen/Reinert . Motion carried 5-0.

Department Updates – Catherine Neiswender

2009 Budget Up-date / 2010 Budget Target: Passed out 2009 budget update and everything is on target. The 2010 budget target is 3% increase as shared at the Department Head meeting. Albrecht asked how the state budget may affect this department. There are many proposals and unknowns, but all will be kept updated as more is known.

UWEX Updates: Shared Focus & Travel which will be posted on the website.

Scholarship Program: Awards will be presented at the June 16 County Board Meeting. Paul reported on the scholarship he presented at St. Mary's awards program.

WACEC Plans: Widener, Barker, and Locke with Kniep will leave at 5:45a.m. from the Winnebago County Courthouse on Monday, June 15. Also shared a conference handout.

UW-Fox Valley Update: Widener shared that the Outagamie County Board approved the elevator and stairwell portion of the building project. The goal is for the project to be ready for fall semester.

Program Reports: Family Living Education – Kristi Cutts: Shared 2008 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program year end report. The community collaboration pilot project served 109 individuals and secured \$118,233 in total refunds. Cutts is already planning for 2009 tax season and hoping to collaborate with other VITA sites in the city. Exploring the possibility of having a site at the new Oshkosh Community Food Pantry. Cutts secured an Eastern District Resource Management grant of \$3,800 to expand the program by having an additional computer, publications, and other educational supplies for 2009.

Agriculture – Nick Schneider: Shared a copy of the weekly "Crops Quick Update" to about 35 people and posted on the Winnebago County UWEX website. The update includes Alfalfa Forage Quality to assist in determining when producers should harvest for the best alfalfa.

June 5 is a Soil Quality Field Day to explore how tillage systems influence infiltration, organic matter and yield. This event will be held on two neighboring farms just west of Oshkosh on June 5. State and federal soil specialists will be guest speakers. The majority of time will be spent in fields and soil pits. Attendees will be able to see how different types of tillage and crop management affect rooting depth and soil water holding capacity.

The new location of the Community Gardens is still working through its first year transition. The Community Gardens is designed for 160 plots. All are filled with at least 12 on a waiting list. Also, the Hmong Association who rents a "block" of plots could have rented an additional 20.

Call in horticulture inquires go to a designated phone to leave questions for trained Master Gardeners or Nick to answer. A state training for Master Gardeners on answering calls is coming up and will be held in Oshkosh.

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Questions were asked about the Emerald Ash Borer infestations. Schneider answered questions and shared an educational kit on the Emerald Ash Borer used in programs.

Comments by Committee Members: Barker – reminder that on May 30 is the 2009 Conservation Expo put on by Land and Water Conservation at Sunnyview Expo. Also reminded people to promote the Winnebago County Fair.

Next meeting is Thursday, June 18 at 9:00a.m.

Meeting adjourned by Barker/Eisen at 9:49a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:
René L. Mehlberg, Recording Secretary