

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, September 17, 2009
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Susan Locke, Paul Eisen, Nancy Barker, and John Reinert.
UW-Extension Staff: Nick Schneider, Dan Teuteberg, Catherine Neiswender, Kristi Cutts, Melody Piper

Meeting called to order at 9:00a.m. By Chair Tom Widener.

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

Motion to approve Thursday, August 20, 2009 meeting minutes as recorded by Widener/Barker.
Motion carried 5-0.

Program Report – Family Living – Kristi Cutts: Reported the two up coming programs she is currently working on VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) and Money Smart Week. Money Smart Week is sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago & Governor Doyle's Council on Financial Literacy along with several local partners. The week of October 10-17th is the date set for the workshops and activities. The focus is to teach participants how to save, spend wisely and some investing. There are also a couple of workshops for children.

Kristi's other focus is working on the VITA program. UW-Extension is continuing their partnership with the Oshkosh Seniors Center and UW-Oshkosh Financial Education Department. Intern Dave Berg is our new intern whose main focus is with the VITA program. Dave is an accounting major at UW-Oshkosh. Kristi informed the committee that about 100 tax returns were processed in 2008. This year she applied for a grant to obtain computers and more materials to be able to process more returns.

Committee members had questions about the training and liability of the preparers. Kristi explained that every volunteer must complete the IRS basic tax training to be certified (this can be done online). The volunteers must be recertified each year to keep up on the current tax laws. She also stated if a participant is audited or there is a mistake VITA is not held responsible if the volunteer acted within the basic guidelines of the IRS training. VITA would also help with the refiling process.

CRD-Catherine Neiswender: Reported the impact study for the Wittman Regional Airport is completed and the details will be presented to the county board members at the October meeting.

Catherine along with Dean Kaderabek (Land & Water Conservation Dept.) and Larry Ellenbecker (Planning and Zoning Dept.) will be conducting several workshops on using The County's GIS system. The workshops will provide participants hands on use of the system.

Catherine Neiswender and Chris Kniep will be facilitating the Healthy Community Café on September 23rd at the Oshkosh Seniors Center. This is a collaborative effort of the "Community Health Initiative Process" (CHIP) discussions for the Oshkosh and Winnebago County Public Health Departments.

Committee Chair Report – Tom Widener:

- Tom read a couple of newspaper articles one was on 4-H from a Minnesota newspaper and the other article from the Wall Street Journal on sustainability.

UW-Fox Valley Update – Tom Widener: The Communication/Arts Center dedication ceremony was held on September 12. The main theater space was named after James Perry, the Dean. The plaque on the building had a list of Winnebago and Calumet Counties trustees and Joe Maehl (former UW Ag & Extension Committee Member and UW Fox Valley Trustee)

UW-Extension - Administration – Catherine Neiswender:

- **2009 Budget Up-date:** Shared 2009 budget-to-date, everything is still on track with the fringe benefits running high.

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- Eisen questioned where the money came from under the income section of the budget. It was from grant money that UW-Extension received.
- The impact of the furloughs is not reflected on the 2009 budget. The first mandatory furlough day is in November. Four days are mandatory and the other four are chosen by the agents. The office will remain open on mandatory furlough days.

UWEX Staff/Office Updates:

- Rebecca Zarling will be finished on September 23rd.
- Vista/Americorp volunteer Genna Thompson will be working out of Butte Des Mort School in Menasha with youth counseling and the after school programs.
- Intern Amanda K will be assisting Dan Teuteberg in creating new curriculum.
- Dan will also be interviewing next week for another intern whose main focus will be marketing.
- Dave Berg started on Wednesday, September 16th and will be working with Kristi Cutts on the VITA project.
- Nick Schneider informed the committee that the Master Gardner's had put in about 6,500 volunteer hours. Volunteers put hours in by answer horticulture call in the Extension office, youth education, working different sites around the county. There has been a large volume of calls that have been coming into the office. Nick also noted the Community Gardens went fairly well this year being a new site. Most of the problems were mainly from first time gardeners.

Comments by Committee Members:

Next meeting is Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 9:00a.m.

Meeting adjourned by Barker/Lock at 9:53a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Melody Piper, Recording Secretary