

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee

Thursday, December 17, 2009

James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Susan Locke, Nancy Barker, and John Reinert , Paul Eisen
UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep (came at 9:25a.m.), Dan Teuteberg, Nick Schneider, Chad Cook, and René Mehlberg
Others Present: Tom Egan, Winnebago County Fair Association President

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 November 19, 2009 meeting minutes by Reinert/Locke. Motion carried 4-0; Eisen abstained.

Program Report: Agriculture Programs, Nick Schneider: Shared he submitted his portfolio for tenure to his academic department summarizing his work from the past 5 years. The document passed and will soon be sent to the Dean's advisory committee. Schneider highlighted the work in the portfolio relating to Winnebago County:

Protecting Soil & Water Quality: Has been working with a local retired soil scientist for on farm research including no-till strategies. He shared research done with no-till and tilled farms and is planning on sharing the results as a case-study for others to learn from.

Frost seeding of clover into winter wheat. The seed is spread in March/April on the field surface. The goal is to have the clover germinate to hold off the weeds with the main benefit of adding nitrogen to the soil. Advantages include suppressing the weeds and less spending of nitrogen in the fertilizer.

Schneider, as part of his work with the Custom Manure Applicator Subcommittee of the Nutrient Management Team, received a 2009 Program Innovation Award from the UW-Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources program Area

Schneider also shared work of the Master Gardener program. They started a \$1,000 scholarship going to a student in the horticulture department at Fox Valley Technical College. The group also had a shared harvest program, where they donated fresh produce to the food pantry and share a tomato plant for someone else to grow. They worked with Habit for Humanity in 7 places for plants in the landscaping including helping the new homeowners on how to care for the plants. Master Gardeners totaled 6863 volunteer hours, 7th in the state. They ranked 3rd in the state with Community Education.

Water Basin Education, Chad Cook: Cook reminded the committee that he is a state Natural Resource Educator working out of the Winnebago County office. One major project is looking at water bodies that are impaired. Every 2 years the state gives a list to the federal government of the impaired water bodies and asks how that water body is going to be fixed. They look at the Total Maximum Daily Load – where are the pollutants, what is the threshold, and how to do get to the threshold. Then they work with the varying sources of pollution to help them reduce the pollutants by looking at what they need to get down to, how to get there, and what existing programs there are to reduce pollutants. The goal is to have everyone work together to have better water quality. Cook noted that the major pollution source of Lake Michigan is the Fox River with half of that pollution coming from Lake Winnebago.

Winnebago County Fair Association (WCFA), Tom Egan: Passed out the 2009 Fiscal Year End report, which looks different from previous years as there was a new treasurer in 2009. Overall the WCFA lost \$45,000 with the 2009 County Fair. Egan responded to questions regarding the Fiscal Year End report.

Egan announced Jan Kossel and Cindy Angle, as the new directors elected at the annual meeting on December 10, 2009. He also mentioned some of the ideas to celebrate the 100th year of the Winnebago County Fair Association in which the additional \$20,000 that has been given to the Association. These ideas

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include having a Sunday parade, get the chambers involved, possibly having the rides already there; having a bigger petting zoo with more exotic animals such as tigers. Looking at the possibly not having racing, but there are conflicts with the grandstand beer license.

Committee Chair Report – Tom Widener: None.

UW Fox Valley Update – Tom Widener: Widener shared that Chancellor Wilson will be taking the Presidency of Morgan State University in Baltimore starting July 1, which was discussed at the UW Fox Valley trustee meeting. The discussion included the questions of where do Extension and Colleges fit and will they become absorbed into other places.

The trustees also had a discussion regarding collective bargaining with the Universities. Kniep clarified the enabling legislation for the committee.

Widener said how the library is dealing with the budget cuts: keeping people during the busy time, but cutting back during the slower times.

UW-Extension – Administration, Chris Kniep:

2009 Budget to date: Shared 2009 budget-to-date and may need to transfer money into travel line item.

UWEX Staff/Office Updates: Kniep shared a document of the professional development/travel support the staff has secured throughout 2009 in addition to the county budget which totaled over \$12,000. The majority of the dollars do not show up on the county budget.

Kniep highlighted the article by Colleen Bates in the WCA magazine. Kniep reminded the committee that Dean Klemme is requesting each county office to talk with state elected officials on how we've helped with the hard economic time. The office is working towards an end of January timeframe. Committee encouraging Kniep to share information at an upcoming County Board meeting.

Kniep shared the good work of the office staff: Neiswender has been selected to represent Wisconsin at the National Extension Leadership seminar; Soper will be highlighted in the Sunday paper for the "Good Eats" program from the Oshkosh Community Food Pantry; highlighted that Teuteberg is working well with partners; Cutts is working well with expanding VITA sites.

Mehlberg gave a timeline of the Winnebago County Board Scholarship. The application is being updated and will be ready for distribution at the January 19, 2010 Winnebago County Board meeting. Additional applications will be distributed to schools, online, etc. by February 1. Applications will be due April 1 with recipients announced by May 1. Widener encouraged all to think how to reach students who may not typically apply for the scholarships but are eligible.

Comments by Committee Members: Eisen thanked Egan for the financial report; thanked Kniep for supplemental information to the travel report; suggested to send a congratulatory letter to Chancellor Wilson on his new position which will be done.

Next meeting is Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 9:00a.m.

Meeting adjourned by Eisen/Barker at 10:47a.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:
René L. Mehlberg, Recording Secretary