

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, May 17, 2012
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Widener, Nancy Barker, Guy Hegg, Susan Locke and Jim Englebert.

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Paula Hella, René Mehlberg, Kayla Oberstadt, Katie Roen, Melody Piper

Others Present: Jeff Gilderson-Duwe - Oshkosh Public Library, Stephen Proce – Neenah Public Library, Vicki Lenz – Elisha D. Smith Public Library (Menasha), Julie Stobbe – Carter Memorial Library (Omro), Mark Arend – Winnefox Library System, Holly Selwitschka – Winneconne Public Library, Gretchen Rach – Neenah Public Library

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Nancy Barker.

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

Motion to approve March 15th, 2012 meeting minutes by Englebert/Hegg. Motion carried. 5-0

Program Reports including 2013 proposals:

Winnefox Library

Library representatives highlighted content of the 2011 Winnebago County Libraries report, including information on programs offered, their Outreach programs, building improvements, and the growing increase of digital media that patrons are using at the library, that includes, E-Readers, books on CD, internet.

The 2011 operating expense budget was reviewed by the committee. Committee member Hegg requested clarification on the circulation counts. Jeff Gilderson-Duwe explained the numbers were based on physical materials check out, not the digital use. The libraries are working with Overdrive Books to develop a system for tracking the usage of the digital collections.

Widener moved to approve the 2013 Library Levy request/seconded by Hegg. Motion carried. 5-0.

4-H Youth Development

René Mehlberg introduced Kayla Oberstadt the new 4-H VISTA worker. Kayla will be with the department for a year. Kayla will be working with the camps being held this summer and will focus on the afterschool program starting in the fall. René also reported a summer VISTA worker will be starting June 21st, for an 8 week period.

René handed out the 2012 Winnebago County Board Scholarship Report. She reported 24 essays representing 10 different schools and 15 different supervisory districts were turned into the County Clerk by the April 2nd deadline. Applications were reviewed to ensure they met the Scholarship Eligibility Requirements; one did not. Essays had personal identifying information removed, and were uniquely labeled for identification, photocopied, and sent to UW Fox Valley to review and rank. Three staff members reviewed the essays to determine the top 9. Recipients represented: 1- Lourdes, 1 Menasha, 1-Omro, 2 Oshkosh North, 4-St Mary Central.

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program

Paula Hella, WNEP Coordinator, reported on the current program topics and that over 4,000 contacts were made in the last grant cycle. Committee member Hegg requested additional impact data on the program. Paula shared she is currently recruiting a Nutrition Educator, and the SNAP Federal Funding for the program.

Motion by Widener to approve the 2012-2013 Winnebago County Agreement with WNEP/seconded by

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Englebert. Motion carried 4-1.

Committee Chair Report – Nancy Barker:

UW-Fox Up-date:

Tonight, May 17, at 7:00 PM is graduation at UW-Fox. The tour of the UW-Fox campus did not include the new Engineering building. This was due to the on going construction.

Storage Building:

Committee members discussed the current Parks/UWEX storage proposal and the resolution Hegg submitted to the Facilities and Property Management Committee.

UW-Extension – Administration:

Committee member Hegg moved to approve the CES Centennial Resolution/seconded by Locke. Motion carried. 4-0 (Englebert absent at the time of the vote)

Chris Kniep checked with committee members regarding attendance at the State WACEC meeting in Green Bay, June 25. Nancy Barker, Susan Locke, Tom Widener have registered. Guy Hegg and Jim Englebert will let Chris know if they register. Travel arrangements will be made at the June Committee meeting.

UWEX Up-Dates & Department Activities:

Money Smart Week and VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), workshops were completed for the year. Riverside Community Gardens are full and only a few plots left at the Sherman Road Garden. There has been an increase in soil testing.

Catherine Neiswender and the sustainability committee had a very success fund raiser and helped with the safe disposal of old electronics. Nick Schneider was involved with the “Clean Sweep” to dispose of chemicals and old pesticides.

After the early May storms the JP Coughlin building had issues regarding computers, card readers and the security system.

Chris introduced the new support staff Katie Roen to the committee; Katie replaced Melody as Melody took over Julie Grundy responsibilities.

Catherine Neiswender has accepted a 20% Intern position with the Central District. A part-time position has been approved to fill the 20% opening.

Comments by Committee Members:

Committee member Hegg committed on the attendance at the last Family Night at Butte des Morts, noting a very low attendance. Hegg questioned involvement in programs with low numbers and asked that staff share program attendance numbers in their reports.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am. By Englebert/Locke. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Melody Piper, Recording Secretary