

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, October 20th, 2011
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Nancy Barker, Guy Hegg, Susan Locke and Jim Englebert. Absent: Tom Widener
Guy Hegg left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Catherine Neiswender, René Mehlberg, Neil Klemme, Mary Beth Seib, Nick Schneider, Kristi Cutts and Julie Grundy

Others Present: None

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

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

Motion to approve September 15th, 2011 meeting minutes by Englebert/Locke to approve the minutes.
Motion carried 4/0

Program Reports:

Community Resource Development – Catherine Neiswender: Catherine shared with the committee a presentation she has developed on the Farmer to Farmer program she participated in earlier this year. Catherine and Paul Roback, Washington County went to Guyana South America to work with farm organizations and farmers. The two taught agency representatives group process skills. Catherine shared pictures of Guyana farms and the community groups she worked on the trip. The presentation is available on the department website.

4-H/Youth Development – Neil Klemme, Rene Mehlberg & MaryBeth Seib. Neil, the new 4H Youth Development Educator, introduced himself to committee members and shared his previous experiences working with youth and 4-H programs. Rene provided an up-date on transitioning into the 2012 4-H Youth Development Year. Neil and MaryBeth described the school partnerships and programs they have been working on, highlighting the LEGO™ project and the photography programs. MaryBeth showed the LEGO™ Smart Creative Activities Grant application video that students have prepared and submitted to secure funding for the program. The three educators will be developing a comprehensive Plan of Work focusing on workplace skills: critical thinking, communications, collaboration and creativity.

Committee Vice-Chair Report – Nancy Barker.

Nancy complimented MaryBeth on the Photo Club exhibit and encouraged staff to let committee members know of programs and events that are offered – they enjoy attending them and interacting with program participants.

Nancy announced the new Dean for UW-Fox is Dr. Martin D. Rudd. He will begin this position early in 2012.

UW-Extension – Administration, Chris Kniep:

WACEC 2012: Chris handed out a “save the date” flyer for the 2012 State WACEC Conference to be held on June 25th and 26th, 2012 in Green Bay.

2011 Budget: She noted she will be attending the Budget Meeting and purchasing laptops by November for agents.

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Staff Update: WNEP Coordinator interviews were conducted October 7th. A person has been selected for the position and been verbally accepted. As soon as the signed contract is received the new coordinator will be announce.

Department Activities:

Nick Schneider described the meeting he and Catherine Neiswender attended with Chancellor Ray Cross, Dean Rick Klemme and representatives of UW-Oshkosh, and Rosendale Dairy. UW-Oshkosh is investigating the development of a partnership with Rosendale Dairy to build a digester and agriculture center.

Kristi Cutts and Chris Kniep will be meeting with the Department of Corrections in Madison to discuss the use of Rent Smart in their prisoner re-entry program.

Comments by Committee Members:

Next meeting is Thursday, November 17th, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the James P. Coughlin Center.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 am. by Locke/Englebert. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by: Julie Grundy, Recording Secretary