

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, February 19th, 2015
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Snider, Tom Widener, & Nancy Barker

UW-Extension Staff: Darrell McCauley, Victoria Kemp, Sarah Thompson, Amy Timm, Catherine Neiswender, & Chris Kniep

Others Present: Koby Schellenger

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Nancy Barker moved to approve the January 15, 2014 minutes. Tom Snider seconded. Motion carried to approve the minutes as corrected.

Program Reports:

4-H Youth Development: Sarah Thompson shared an overview of the Lego Club parent and youth participation at schools that have requested to participate (Webster Stanley Elementary and Washington Elementary). 130+ youth have participated in the after-school enrichment hour over the past 6 weeks. Participants have shared that they enjoy learning how to build things and being able to teach others. The Oshkosh Public Museum will be sharing our program at "The Art of the Brick" exhibition. The next Lego Club meeting is March 3, 2015.

Agriculture: Darrell McCauley shared an overview of the work he has been doing since he joined the UWEX staff. He has been completing one-on-one consultations by request (16 people have called for consultation); he also shared statistics regarding completion of Pesticide Applicator Training and producers able to write their own Nutrients Plan. The needs assessment McCauley sent to producers and agriculture professionals is having a high response rate with a 27% return rate bringing 123 of 466 surveys back. Upcoming Ag events are the Soil Health Field Day, Tractor Safety Training, and Breakfast on the Farm. McCauley is attending professional development and education about the soil, Ag updates, animal husbandry practices, and production, and will be doing a visioning session for the Community Gardens partners to create a long-term vision/mission for the garden.

Committee Chair Report:

Horticulture: Emerald Ash Borer – Tom Widener shared a confirmed case of the Emerald Ash Borer in the Appleton area, and there will be a presentation to the board on March 3, 2015. He urged proactive planning to ensure we have the funds early on to cover the cost of cleaning up the trees. Widener supports the development of a program that includes how to remove and replace the trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer. Kim Miller is seeking feedback on the draft report she previously emailed to committee members. It was suggested that Miller's updated information be sent to the other board members before the Special Orders Meeting.

Garage Up-date: Tom Widener shared a delay on the space due to moving funds from last year to this year, but the plan is still to have building completed in time for the fair.

UW-Extension – Administration

Staff Updates: We are now fully staffed. An offer has been extended for the Family Living Educator. Amy Timm joined the team this week to fill the Support Staff Position.

Capitol Connections: WACEC is hosting a one-day event on April 30th, 2015, allowing members to visit state legislators and staff to discuss the value Cooperative Extension programming brings to legislators' districts and to thank them for their continued support of the Cooperative Extension.

UWEX Updates: We received larger TVs and equipment for video conferencing in the meeting rooms because we were selected to accommodate larger groups (Chad Cook is heading this). This will allow the groups two-way visual and audio access to interact more efficiently.

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Chris Kniep attended a meeting at UW Fox Valley focusing on the impact of the budget proposal, specifically the \$300 million base budget cut to the system over a two-year period, elimination of continuation funding, and line-item cuts to UWEX. Discussion covered what these cuts would mean for the colleges and extension, but nothing is set-in-stone and early March will bring more clarification. It was suggested to get the word out about statistics and personal stories.

WLUK will be coming to interview Joyce Helzs, Chris Kniep, and 2 grandparents about the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program.

County Board Scholarship: Sarah Thompson shared that the deadline for scholarship applications is March 27th. Scholarship pamphlets have been sent to additional schools and public libraries. Scholarship information has been posted on the county website and Oshkosh Area Community Foundation website. It has also been marketed on Facebook and Twitter. Board members are needed to present the awards at the school ceremonies.

Comments by Committee Members: Tom Widener shared that we have additional funds available from the Scholarship Fund program.

Catherine Neiswender shared that the Leadership Development for Local Officials has been rescheduled to March 5th at the Neenah Library. This is the first time for the county and it will help educate and train city and village plan commissioners. We are encouraged to attend and spread the word. Results will be shared at the April meeting.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be held Thursday, April 16, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

NOTE: No March Meeting.

Adjourned: Tom Widener moved to adjourn; seconded by Nancy Barker. Motion carried, 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Chris Kniep