

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, March 15, 2012
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

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

UW-Extension Staff: Chris Kniep, Nick Schneider, Catherine Neiswender, Kris Soper

Others Present: Steve Vickman, Executive Director, Oshkosh Area Community Pantry

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

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

Motion to approve February 16th, 2011 meeting minutes by Englebert/Hegg to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Program Reports:

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Committee – Kris Soper: Kris introduced Steve Vickman, Executive Director, Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. Steve was invited to provide an overview and up-date on the Back Pack Program. The program is reaching over 250 youth in three elementary schools in Oshkosh. The schools all have over 50% of the youth eligible for free or reduced lunch. Program participants leave school on Friday with 4-8 pounds with a retail value of \$7-14, costing the pantry 80¢- \$1.50. It is part of the pantry's outreach efforts. Teachers have noted children in the program come to school on Monday ready to learn. The United Way as well as other community groups are funding an expanded program for the 2012/2013 school year. Many community groups support the effort by preparing the food packages and delivering them to schools.

The committee also discussed the role of parents in providing healthy meals/food for children, the focus of the WNEP program and the school district's wellness focus.

Community Resource Development – Catherine Neiswender: Catherine provided an up-date on her work schedule and focus areas. The Plan Commissioner Network is in its 7th year. Network meeting topics are selected by attendees. Catherine is planning a research/impact survey of this effort planning to measure how participation in the network has impacted decision making capacity, understanding of cultural resources, building permits, zoning, etc.

A second area of her work is related to the economic impact of Wittman Airport. This has been on-going research. The focus of this year's study will be business retention and expansion, looking at barriers and needs of Airport businesses. The committee noted the value of this effort for County Board member deliberations.

Catherine continues to work with the CHIPs/ReThink Committees. Moving from the strategic planning effort Catherine and Chris Kniep are providing trainings related to organizational development. This work has branched off to the Health Department and Oshkosh Police Department.

Committee Chair Report – Tom Widener:

UW-Fox Up-date: Guy Hegg shared his concerns regarding the haunted house signage. Tom Widener described the role of the Board of Trustees and Winnebago County's role in building maintenance. The Engineering Building is finished and will be in use in the fall. The apartments being built for students near UW-Fox are being built by a Private Developer.

Parks/UWEX Storage Building discussion and possible decision: Tom and Chris provided an up-date on the storage building discussions that have occurred since the last meeting. Mike Elders has been investigating storage options and costs. The tour of facilities is tentatively scheduled for

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April 4th at 1:30 p.m. for members of the Parks, Facility and UW-Extension Committees. Jim Engelbert noted he is unable to attend.

UW-Extension – Administration:

2012 Budget: Chris distributed a copy of the 2012 budget summary statement, reflecting income and expenses January to March.

Staff Up-date: Chris noted applications and interviews have been completed for the Secretary II position. Neil Klemme's last day was Wednesday March 14th. The new Regional Director, Gerald Correthers will be starting Friday March 16th, visiting the office March 19th to meet staff.

Department Activities: Chris mentioned several upcoming meetings/programs to committee members including the Urban Homesteading series scheduled for the Neenah Library.

Joe Maehl, UW Colleges/UW-Extension Board of Visitors joined the committee to learn about priority issues for UW-Extension. Joe serves on the Chancellor's Board of Visitors, linking UW Colleges and UW-Extension to the public.

Comments by Committee Members:

Nancy Barker provided an update on the Glacierland RCD efforts.

Next meeting is Wednesday April 4th at 1:30 p.m. at the James P. Coughlin Center to tour the Expo and storage facilities and the regular meeting is Thursday April 19th at 9:00 a.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 am. By Barker/Locke. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Chris Kniep, Recording Secretary