

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Tom Widener, Tom Snider, Ron Hardy, and Nancy Barker

**UW-Extension Staff:** Mandi Dornfeld, Kim Miller, Amy Timm, and Chris Kniep

**Others Present:** None

**Meeting called to order** at 9:03 am by Tom Widener.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Tom Snider moved to approve the 2/19/2015 minutes. Seconded by Nancy Barker. Motion carried 4 - 0 to approve the minutes.

**Program Reports:**

**Horticulture:** Kim Miller shared that she is working with ADVOCAP to expand the Community Gardens program, and ADVOCAP is providing funding to hire someone to mow at the gardens. Registration meetings revealed a communication barrier with the Hmong gardeners due to low English-speaking ability and illiteracy with the Hmong language. Riverside Garden was closed due to poor turn-out. Some gardeners were removed from the gardens for not managing weeds or cleaning their plots at the end of last season. There are currently 34 open plots. Plots are 20 x 40ft at \$15.00 each.

It is National Volunteer Week. There are 110 members in Master Gardeners (MG), 95 have been certified. 21 new members went through the class. Members have completed 6,500 hrs of community service and over 2,100 hrs of continuing education. Volunteers were invaluable last year for helping with phone calls and county projects. MG are going to give a presentation at Menasha Public Library to promote the program. MG have been working on finding a mixture of projects for the different age groups in the program. Kim reported a 50% retention rate of new members consistent with state retention rates.

**Family Living:** Mandi Dornfeld and Chris Kniep are working on networking and conducting a needs assessment to determine how to realign and expand programming based on skill set of the new team. Assessment was sent to 250 people, and there will be a meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the results with community partners. Mandi wrote a grant for the state to implement a new digital parenting model program. Mandi is also working with WI Bookworms to secure the \$2,500 necessary to fund their program that provides 8 books, lessons, and interaction with children from 2 Headstart programs in the area. Rent Smart workshop in February had about 25 participants who all completed the course and received their certificate.

Chris Kniep shared about her work with the Hub, working with individuals in emergency situations to help them become stable. The Hub is creating focus groups with agencies to brand the effort and network. The Money Conference is April 25<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$2 per person, and 100-150 typically people attend the ½ day conference each year. Kris Soper will be teaching on low-cost food. Mandi Dornfeld & Tory Kemp will provide a session on couponing. Chris Kniep will teach on record-keeping. Karen Dickrell will teach about budgeting. A Participant-Observer Evaluation Component will measure the impact of this conference in the lives of participants. The February Maine Rent Smart Leader Training program was helpful for Chris to re-connect with delivering the curriculum. Rent Smart state curriculum is being updated for 2016.

**4-H Youth Development:** Sarah Thompson has been promoting 4-H through the Lego-Robotics program. On average, 20-30 children come to Lego club nights and participation includes one or both of their parents. The Neenah Boys & Girls Brigade held a youth activity fair with over 400 attendees, and the Lego-Robotics table had a lot of participation. The "Art of the Brick" Lego exhibit at the Oshkosh Public Museum has been beneficial for connecting with the public through having representatives available to answer questions.

Winnebago County had the largest group of youth at the 4-H Upham Woods camp counselor training. Our youth made a positive impression and were recognized by other leaders to be future camp counselors. Pizza making was the biggest 4-H fundraiser this year, producing nearly 4,000 pizzas. Sarah shared participant stories about how impactful 4-H has been on their lives and the opportunity it presents for making a difference in the community.

**Committee Chair Report:**

**Horticulture: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** – The plan for the EAB has been completed and presented to the County Board since our last meeting. Plan books are available for anyone who would like a copy. Andrew Maracini and Kim Miller are creating an interface to turn the tree inventory into a working database. A test program should be available and implemented soon. The inventory interface must be completed to identify the 150 trees that would benefit most from treatment. Implementation of the interface and treatment are awaiting approval from IS for tablets to be used for the program. They should have enough funding to complete the proposed plan for this year. Price estimates for chemical treatment are in progress, working through spending resistance issues. Estimates are intended to avoid repeat bidding, maximize planning, and prepare for long-term planning.

**Garage Up-date:** Footings have been put in and they've started to put up the structure. Weather is influencing timing, but construction is expected to be completed in time for the fair.

**UW-Extension – Administration**

**Staff Updates:** Mandi Dornfeld began as Family Living Educator on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Matt Welter's employment in our office ended March 10<sup>th</sup>. The 4-H Youth Development position will be posted April 24<sup>th</sup> and potentially filled this summer. Sarah Thompson is providing leadership during the interim. All other positions have been filled.

**Capitol Connections:** Capitol Connections appointments have been set with Rep. Mike Rohrkaste, Rep. Mike Schraa and Senator Roth on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Fond du Lac and Outagamie counties have set up joint meetings with Repr. Dave Murphy, Senator Gudex, and Rep. Amanda Stuck.

**UWEX Updates:** \$7-8 million of the proposed \$300 million state budget cuts will be for UWEX. This translates to cutting 80 county positions, or 40 state specialist positions, or 30 administrative positions, or a combination of the 3. Chad Cook's position is a line-item cut with his position ending September 30<sup>th</sup>. Dean Rick Klemme is expected to have a staffing plan ready soon. The UWEX annual report has been completed and distributed.

**County Board Scholarship:** We received 43 applications from 9 different schools, including 1 home school: 1 Menasha, 6 Neenah, 4 Oshkosh Lourdes, 5 Oshkosh North, 14 Oshkosh West, 4 Omro, 4 Winneconne, 4 St. Mary Central, and 1 Covenant Harbor home school. The higher turnout was a result of promoting at libraries, schools, and public places. Scholarships will be presented at the county board meetings, and volunteers are needed to present the scholarships. June was suggested as the better option for students. Tom Widener approved granting 10 scholarships if there is a very close decision between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> candidates.

**Comments by Committee Members:** Nancy Barker informed the committee of a highly contagious dog flu according to national news. Nancy also encouraged additional promotion for the 4-H program.

The next UWEX committee meeting scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting is the week of the leadership conference and may need to change. The July meeting date may also need to be changed.

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting date will be set by Tom Widener and the Winnefox Library Board.

**Adjourned:** Tom Weidner moved to adjourn; seconded by Nancy Barker. Motion carried 4-0, 10:39am

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Timm