

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, August 21, 2014**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

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

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Kniep, Catherine Neiswender, Kristi Cutts, Kim Miller

**Others Present:** Jeff Gilderson-Duwe, Holly Selwitschka, Julie Stobbe

**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:** Barker moved to approve the July 24, 2014 minutes. Schellinger seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**Program Reports:**

**Winnefox Library 5 Year Agreement:** Jeff Gilderson Duwe asked the committee to consider supporting the renewal of the “5 Year Winnefox Library” agreement. He briefly reviewed the agreement that had been mailed to committee members in July. At the core of this agreement is the formula for reimbursement of services from townships. Duwe requested that a typographical correction be made to the agreement on page 4 that stated 2010 rather than 2015. Snider asked about a 2013 date on page 6, and Duwe asked that this also be corrected to 2018, as patron audits occur every 5 years, and the next audit following the one in 2013 would occur in 2018. Duwe responded to supervisor questions. Chair Tom Weidner called for a motion to approve the Winnefox Library 5 Year agreement with the corrections noted. Schellinger made a motion to approve the Winnefox 5 Year Agreement, and Snider seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Ron Hardy joined the meeting at 9:25AM following an excused absence.

**Horticulture/Emerald Ash Borer:** Kim Miller reported that Emerald Ash Borer continues to be a problem. The pest has been identified in Brown County, the southwest region of the state, and also the south central region of the state. Miller stated that half of the state is now quarantined. She added that at present there have been no new finds in Winnebago County. She continues to collaborate with the Facilities Department on management of this issue. The contract for a complete Winnebago County tree inventory was awarded to Blue Stem Forestry following a review of proposals submitted. Miller stated that proposals were independently judged using a scoring matrix.

**Family Living Programs:** Kristi Cutts reported that she and Chris Kniep are planning to continue the Landlord Education programming that was piloted this spring. This effort builds on 10+ years of Rent Smart programming that focuses on tenant education. Cutts and Kniep met with collaborators for a debrief meeting and were encouraged to plan further education in this area. Cutts reported that the Tenant Resource Center will be offering a Tenant Landlord Law Training at the JP Coughlin Center, and the Fair Housing Center of NE Wisconsin will be offering a fair housing training at the Oshkosh Seniors Center. Both offerings will be shared with area landlords that participated in the spring trainings. Cutts also shared information about the Money Smart in Head Start financial education effort. Of particular note were the results of the newsletter survey. Cutts was pleased to report that 80% of parents had seen the educational newsletters, and that 43% skimmed the newsletter, 33% read most of the newsletter and 15% read all of it. She added that educational programming will continue with this audience.

**Community Resource Development:** Catherine Neiswender reported that she will be gearing up for work with local governments this fall. She is working with the County Planning Department. Neiswender

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is offering a professional development workshop for local officials called “What is your Color?” This program makes temperament theory both accessible and understandable using the Real Colors program. Neiswender is a certified Real Colors facilitator. She is also working with the Highway Department and the Sheriff’s department on matters related to the recent “Implements of Husbandry” legislation.

**Committee Chair Report:** Tom Weidner reported that \$100,000 is included in the Winnebago County budget for management of the County’s ash trees. Weidner added he is hopeful that a joint meeting of this committee, the parks committee and the facilities committee can occur to further discuss the Emerald Ash Borer problem and ongoing management needs.

**UW-Extension – Administration** Kniep shared information on:

**Staff Up-dates:**

- Sarah Thompson will conclude her leadership work with 4-H Fair activities at the end of August.
- Leonard Polzin resigned his position to accept a graduate assistantship program at Michigan State University in their Agriculture Economics program.
- Melody Piper will start a medical leave on August 29, 2014.

**Hiring processes:**

**4-H Youth Development** Position: Matt Welter starts on September 2, 2014.

**Youth & Science Educator:** Kniep has secured authorization to re-post this position and expects to conduct interviews on September 8, 2014.

**Agriculture Position:** Preliminary interviews were conducted with two candidates and a third was unavailable for the scheduled preliminary interviews. After preliminary interviews it was decided to extend the recruitment through September 16<sup>th</sup>. Scheduling is in process for both preliminary and final interviews.

**WNEP Coordinator:** As reported in July, this position was reposted for extended recruitment. Preliminary interviews were conducted following the extended recruitment. Final interviews are scheduled for 9/2. Kniep is hopeful that the position will be filled following these final interviews.

**UWEX Up-dates – Department Activities:**

**Budget Review-**Kniep reported that the UWEX Department 2015 budget review had occurred recently. The budget was adjusted by \$600.

**Storage Building-** The storage building was sited, and a plan submitted to the City of Oshkosh for approval. After gaining approval it was decided that the site had to be relocated on the grounds due to it being too close to the dump station. A revised plan has been re-submitted to the City of Oshkosh for approval.

**Fair Tickets-** Kniep reported that the Fair Board had requested that the UWEX office sell fair tickets. She stated that this is not possible as the finance department policy will not allow county staff to handle money for outside organizations.

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**Fair-Kniep** reported that the fair was very successful. She extended kudos to Tom Snider for his judging of 4-H Cloverbuds. She further reported that the 4-H awards program went well. The Stevenson family presented a scholarship, and several key awards were issued. 4-H fundraising also went well with funds being raised by the Dipper's food sales, and tickets for the basket raffle.

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be held September 18th, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

Snider moved to adjourn; seconded by Schellinger. Motion carried 5-0.

**Adjourned:** 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Kristi Cutts, Recording Secretary