

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

COMMITTEE: Agriculture & Extension Education
DATE OF MEETING: February 14, 2012, Wolf River Room, Resource Center
MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Schultz, Eugene Kamps, William Bostwick, Rick Bina, Arlene Bonacci
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Kari Lazars, Tom Schmitz, Jennifer Clark, Alex Crockford, Sally Hull

Schultz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approve Minutes and Agenda:

Bina made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda. Bostwick seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agent Reports:

Alex Crockford said the WPVGA will be increasing Research Station funding from \$10,000 to \$12,000 annually. Alex attended a UW Extension Strategic Planning Workshop in November. After that training, he then worked with the Wisconsin Seed Potato Improvement Association and the WPVGA on their strategic planning processes. He attended the Potato Expo and collected data. Alex received the WPVGA award for Researcher of the Year. He has been involved with raising funds for the new cattle barn at the fairgrounds. Alex is planning a Small Farms Conference to be held in March along with Marinette and Forest Counties. Plans are underway for Breakfast on the Farm to be held June 24 at the Terry, Greg & Justin Schroepfer farm. Alex is teaching the pesticide applicator trainings and a Master Gardener Class. He is working on an educational program called "Got Dirt" to help teachers gain knowledge about gardening to bring back to their classes. Alex continues to work with the AEA and is working to develop boundaries into Marathon County.

Jennifer Clark taught a Money on the Bookshelf program in November to help encourage families to start having conversations centered on money management with their children. She is doing a program called Roadmap to Financial Success with Forward Services to help participants learn about setting financial goals and creating a spending plan. Jennifer has also been doing one-on-one financial coaching. She attended a Poverty Simulation in January. Strong Women was held in November and December with 10 participants. The Strengthening Families program is being held with 11 families participating. Jennifer continues to work with SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). They are working on a grant through the Wisconsin DOT to educate students about texting while driving.

Update from Central Regional Director:

Tom Schmitz gave an update on the status of filling the 4-H Youth Development Agent position in Langlade County. He has a signed contract and the new agent will be starting March 1, 2012. Kari Lazars has been temporarily assigned to work with the Menominee County Nation for two months working with their WNEP program and doing department head duties there. She will share her time between Langlade County, Oneida County, and the Menominee Nation.

Approve Carryforwards:

A carryforward balance of \$13,140.45 was presented to the committee for approval. This includes money left in the Research Station, Pesticide Applicator Training, Master Gardener, and state grants accounts. Bina made a motion to approve the carryforward balance of \$13,140.45. Bostwick seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

4-H Support Staff Position:

The 4-H support staff position has been filled as a casual position for the past 2 ½ years. This was done due to program rankings and positions being studied at that time. Since the position was casual, there was no health insurance. Beginning January 1, 2012, the pay rate for the position was raised to what it would have been as a union position. A resolution was presented to the committee to refill the 4-H support staff position as a permanent full-time position effective January 1, 2013, including health insurance as a benefit if needed. The position would have to be posted before the end of the year as it would still be considered a union position at that time. Bostwick made a motion to approve the resolution to refill the 4-H support staff position as a permanent full-time position effective January 1, 2013, and to take the resolution to personnel and executive committees for approval and then on to county board in March. Kamps seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Facebook Account for UW Extension:

The Health Department has been using Facebook to reach clients and many Extension offices use Facebook as a way to reach 4-H youth. Bina made a motion to approve a Facebook account for the Extension Office. Bonacci seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

County Board Report and Centennial:

UW Extension is celebrating 100 years of Cooperative Extension in Wisconsin throughout 2012. Extension agents will give their annual report to the May County Board and will set up a display and provide refreshments before the meeting. A Centennial display will also be set up for the fair and an open house will be held. We will have the display case at the Library for the month of July and will check with CoVantage on using one of their glass display cases. Tom Schmitz suggested that we include what the future of Extension looks like as well as the past.

Bills:

Bostwick made a motion to approve the bills. Bina seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Next Meeting:

The next Ag & Extension meeting will be March 13, 2012, 8:30 a.m.

Adjournment:

Bostwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. Bonacci seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Submitted by,
Sally Hull