

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

COMMITTEE: Agriculture & Extension Education
DATE OF MEETING: July 9, 2013, Wolf River Room, Resource Center
MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Bina, Eugene Kamps, William Bostwick, Arlene Bonacci,
Holly Matucheski
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Kari Lazars, Stephanie Plaster, Sally Hull, Tom Schmitz via Skype

Bina called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve Minutes and Agenda:

Kamps made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Bostwick seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agent Reports:

Kari Lazars reported on the WNEP program for May and June. Lessons are finished in the schools. Plans for the upcoming school year will include going into phy ed classes to do programming. Kari continues to work with hospital referrals and Forward Services clients on nutrition and food budgeting. She is helping plan the Thrivent Cans Hunger event which will raise awareness of the food pantry and how the community can help support the pantry. Kari has been attending meetings at the hospital to assist in conducting a community-wide health assessment to identify health priorities in this area. Kari worked with Jennifer Clark as she prepared to leave the Family Living position and the office has been helping to prepare for 4-H camps and the fair.

Quarterly Budget Update:

An updated budget for the Research Station and UWEX was handed out. Budget items are where they should be at mid-year.

Family Living Educator Position:

Tom Schmitz joined the meeting via Skype. He said UW Extension is ready to move forward with filling the Family Living position. The position was an 80% FTE position when Jennifer Clark left in June. He asked the committee to discuss what changes they would like to see in the position if any and if there are any focus areas that should be changed with the position. Discussion was held on focusing on stronger facilitation with coalition work. The position is funded at 60% state, 40% county. Bostwick expressed concern that with the current economy it might be best to hold off on filling the position until next spring. Kari Lazars reviewed the programming that this position completes, and explained that WNEP is part of the Family Living program and without a Family Living program, WNEP may not be a part of the Extension Office. Tom Schmitz expressed concern that if the position is left vacant for any great amount of time, the state dollars that are available for it now will be spent on another position in another community. Once funding is gone, it is hard to get it back. Bina would like to see financial education continue to be a strong focus of the position. Kamps made a motion to refill the Family Living Educator position at 80% FTE with the committee reviewing the position description prior to posting. Matucheski seconded the motion. Four ayes, one nay. Motion

carried. Tom Schmitz will forward a job description to Kari Lazars to send to committee members.

Next Meeting:

The next Ag & Extension meeting will be held August 13 at 3:30 p.m.

Adjourn:

Bonacci made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 p.m. Bostwick seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Submitted by,
Sally Hull