

# DODGE COUNTY UW EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

## May 12, 2015

The Dodge County UW-Extension Education Committee met on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the UW-Extension conference room 1C at the Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Behl called Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members present: Allen Behl, Darrell Pollesch, Annette Thompson, Gerald Adelmeyer and Ed Nelson.

**Also, present:** Jeff Hoffman, Community Development Educator and Department Head, Marie Witzel, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Becky Gutzman, WNEP Coordinator and Pattie Carroll, Family Living Educator.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Adelmeyer, seconded by Thompson to approve minutes for Tuesday, March 24, 2015 meeting. Motion carried.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS:

Nelson & Behl reported on their visit to Capitol Connections that was held on April 30, 2015. They saw one out of four legislators the other three were staff members. They shared that they thanked the Legislators for supporting UW-Extension, and that it is a huge benefit to have UW-Extension in Dodge County. The target was to have 300 people attend Capitol Connections from across the state and over 400 attended from 52 counties. They both felt their message was well received in the offices they visited.

Behl reported on the PILS Conference in Washington D.C., that he attended for three days. There were 270 individuals signed up to attend, 30 of which were from Wisconsin (15 were volunteers and 15 were staff).

**APPROVAL OF PER DIEMS:** Motion by Adelmeyer, seconded by Pollesch to approve the regular meeting per diems with the addition of adding Capitol Connections (April 30, 2015) travel for Ed Nelson and Allen Behl.

**REVIEW OF BILLS** Review of the UW-Extension revenues and expenses.

### DEPARTMENT BUSINESS:

- a. Reviewed UW-Extension Revenues and Expenses for March and April 2015.
- b. Discussion and update on the Crops & Soils Ag Agent position

1. Kottke reported that he spoke with UW-Extension's Southwest Regional Director, Matt Hanson regarding Dodge County filling this position. Kottke stated, "As it stands, filling the position currently depends on if the state budget passes which will not get signed/approved until July 1, 2015." There are currently three different scenarios that could happen: could be a "joint" position; could be a full-time position, and last, it is neither and does not get filled. Hoffman shared the article "*Proposed budget cuts threaten UW Extension agents*" from today's Milwaukee-Wisconsin Journal Sentinel explaining that "*The Cooperative Extension division of UW Extension could lose between 65 and 80 positions at the county level under proposed budget cuts.*"

Behl asked the question as to how the process of interviewing/hiring could be streamlined after the initial applications come in vs. how long the process is currently through the HR

department in Madison. Hoffman explained that the HR department in Madison has been changing their processes but said he would find out an answer to that question and let the committee know at a later time.

- c. Consideration of the Dodge County UW-Extension Agents Contract, 133-PRJ56LW. This is January 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015 Dodge County contract with the UW Board of Regents.
  1. Motion by Pollesch, second by Nelson to approve the Dodge County UW-Extension Agents Contract, 133-PRJ56LW for January 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015.
- d. Discussion and Consideration on the WNEP contract for October 2015 to September 2016. (Motion carried).
  1. Motion by Thompson, seconded by Nelson to approve the WNEP contract for October 2015 to September 2016. (Motion carried).

### **EDUCATORS' REPORTS:**

Hoffman: Hoffman shared that he had a well attended and successful workshop on interpersonal conflict. The program is part of his education with groups and non-profits on organizational effectiveness. He commented that he received a couple requests from other organizations to present the workshop information to other groups. Hoffman shared that he is making presentations at the UW-Extension Leadership Conference the end of May and hoped to be able to present at Coöperative Extension all staff conference this Fall. Hoffman reminded the Committee that this Saturday is the Dodge County Master Gardener's plant sale at the Administration Building.

Witzel: Witzel talked about the communication programs that have happened over the past 6 weeks including Speaking, Demonstration and Music and Drama festival. This is a great way for young people to develop their communication skills. Witzel also shared the organizational development happening with the Dodge County leaders association and the endowment fund. Both groups are working on their bylaws and making some updates. She talked about the transition with the Farm City Day event including more ag colleagues in the office and transitioning that leadership.

Carroll: Carroll shared that she is sitting on the Board of Directors for The Gathering Source. The Gathering Source has a mission to serve the community by extending a helping hand, providing food, support and love for those facing dire circumstances beyond their control. They are dedicated to improving the quality of rural life through the food pantry, community partnerships, community education and community services. Carroll reported that she provides educational support for The Gathering Source. Carroll also shared that phase two of eParenting® just concluded reaching over 20 schools throughout Wisconsin. Evaluation results will be forthcoming and phase three will include expansion to five midwestern states as well as an increased presence in Wisconsin and Dodge County.

Gutzman: Coordinator Gutzman reported on the successful programming that has been accomplished in Dodge County this year. She informed the committee of her upcoming retirement, July 7, 2015. It is expected that the coordinator position will be posted this month, so that a replacement is hired as soon as possible. The new coordinator will then be involved in hiring the new educator position, which won't begin until Oct. 1, 2015 to coincide with the start of a new program year for WNEP. Each of these positions will be 1 FTE, and at a recent meeting with the department heads and family living educators of Dodge and Columbia County, it was agreed that each county should house one of these positions. The coordinator will be housed in whichever county is most conveniently located, and then the educator position will be advertised for the other county. The WNEP plan and budget for next year has been

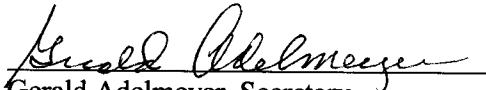
completed and includes plenty of educational events for both positions. Gutzman mentioned that two additional schools will be receiving WNEP lessons next year due to 50% or higher free/reduced meals participation. There was discussion that while this allows WNEP to serve more families, it is an indicator that more families than ever are struggling to make ends meet.

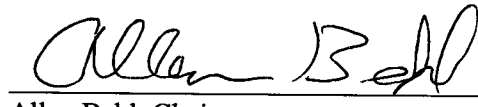
**COMMUNICATION:** None

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** The next regularly scheduled Extension Committee meeting, June 16, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the UW-Extension Conference Room 1C, in the Dodge County Administration Building at 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, Wisconsin.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before this committee, it was motioned by Nelson and seconded by Thompson to adjourn at 9:49 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gerald Adelmeyer, Secretary

  
Allen Behl, Chairman