

**Natural Resources and Education Committee
Manitowoc County Office Complex
February 11, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cathy Wagner at 4:30 p.m. Other supervisors present were Todd Holschbach, Melvin Waack, and Laurie Burke. Supervisor Pat Kohlman was excused. Also present were UW Extension 4-H Youth Development Educator and Department Director Kevin Palmer, WNEP Coordinator Laura Apfelbeck, WNEP Educator Kao Vang, WNEP Educator Janeth Orozco and UW-Extension Program Assistant Tracy Schuppel.

Motion by Holschbach, second by Waack, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Holschbach, second by Waack, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015 and January 21, 2015 meetings. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Palmer stated that there was a WACEC flyer and it was for an upcoming East-Metro Region meeting on the UW-Extension reorganization plan, and that the meeting will be conducted via You-Tube and Wise line. The flyer has the connection information and the meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 26 from 9:00 -10:30 am. Palmer also indicated that he could reserve a room and NREC Committee members could attend the meeting at the Office Complex if they wished.

2015/2016 Budget Review: Palmer stated that the budget for 2015 finished with \$8800.00 to give back to the county in part due to budgeting for Ruth's position for all of last year, but Ruth retired in September. Some of the education supplies were not all used, and some areas we went over in, but we also did some remodeling up front. Palmer reviewed the 2016 budget and stated there really is not much to show because it is in the beginning of the year and we should be at 92% and we are at that for most categories.

Educator Report: Apfelback stated we have hired two new employees. Their names are Kao Vang and Janeth Orozco. Kao is from Manitowoc and Janeth Orozco is from Sheboygan. Kao will be working the full-time position and Janeth will be working the part-time (80%) position. They both will be traveling to Sheboygan and Manitowoc as needed.

February Office Newsletter Review: Palmer highlighted the Future of Cooperative Extension which includes a budget reduction of \$3.6 million dollars. The target areas will include a cutting of 1.2 million from county-level programs, \$1.7 million from campus programs and state specialists and \$700,000 from Central Administration.

Approximately 80 UW-Extension positions statewide will be eliminated. Palmer highlighted for Gunderson's article that the Wisconsin Agriculture Education Center has raised \$8 million dollars and this represents about two-thirds of the total needed to construct the Center. Palmer highlighted for Zuege-Halvorsen's article that she offers the Parents Forever Program which consists of two 2-hour classes on consecutive weeks. The program is designed for parents experiencing a family transition such as divorce or separation. Last year a total of 216 parents attended the classes which impacted 213 children in Manitowoc County. Apfelbeck highlighted the Wisconsin Local Food Summit that she had a chance to attend. Apfelbeck reported that in Glean Central Wisconsin, a UW-Extension Agent from Portage County and an AmeriCorps worker collected more than 7,000 lbs. of leftover food from Farmers Markets, redistributing it to local food pantries. Sheboygan's Meals on Wheels project grew 5,000 lbs. of food on site in raised garden beds and accepted 11,000 lbs. of fresh local produce donations last year. Apfelbeck concluded that the Hunger Task Force in Milwaukee, started by parents hoping for a school breakfast program, now runs a farm on 200 acres of county-owned land that provides 800,000 lbs. of fresh produce each year to low income families.

Office Reconfiguration: Palmer stated that the UW-Extension support staff area and the volunteer area were reconfigured to have the employees face the customers when they come to the counter instead of having their backs to them. Palmer indicated that the reconfiguration was done to provide better customer service. Palmer also stated that it cost about \$2500.00 for the reconfiguration.

Date of the Next Meeting: The next NREC meeting will be Thursday April 14, 2016, at 4:30 pm at the Manitowoc County Office Complex.

Motion to adjourn by Holschbach, second by Burke. Motion carried with the meeting adjourning at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Schuppel
UW-Extension Program Assistant