

Agriculture & Extension Education Committee
November 19, 2008
Minutes

Committee members present: Chair Paul Dean, Wilbur Petroskey, Tom Rudolph, Denny Thompson, and Romelle Vandervest

Others present: Dan Kuzlik, Jim Winkler, Jim Kumbera and Kerri Ison.

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 1 p.m. by Chair Paul Dean.

Approve agenda: Motion by Vandervest/Rudolph to approve the meeting agenda as printed. All ayes; motion carried.

Introduce TAG member: Winkler introduced Mary Benbenek, TAG member. Benbenek is a junior at Lakeland Union High School and is excited to be here. Roundtable introductions were held.

Approve minutes: Rudolph noted a change on Page 3: 2009 personnel requests. Last line should read "280 hours of horticulture support". Motion by Petroskey/Vandervest to approve the minutes of October 6, 2008 with above mentioned correction. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

12/16/08	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
1/13/09	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

Monthly budget report: Motion by Vandervest/Petroskey to approve the monthly budget reports for the periods ending 9/30/08 and 10/31/08 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly invoices/Oneida County Fair invoices: Motion by Vandervest/Rudolph to approve the departmental invoices as well as the invoices for the Oneida County Fair as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve line item transfer: Ison presented a line item transfer in the amount of \$447 to be transferred from the Oneida County LTE wage account to the department's overtime wage account to cover the 4-H secretary's overtime during the Oneida County Fair. Motion by Vandervest/Rudolph to approve the line item transfer in the amount of \$447 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Per diem requests: Dean indicated several staff members have requested travel in between Committee meetings. He approved those requests pending final approval by this Committee, but he noted he received a memo indicating travel must be approved

by Committee. Discussion followed. Rudolph noted past practice has been that the Committee Chair is authorized to grant tentative approval for last minute travel to avoid calling emergency committee meetings. Committee members agreed that because late notice does sometimes happen, staff members should contact Dean for tentative approval and then request reimbursement at the Committee meetings.

WNEP Coordinator position: Kuzlik indicated interviews for the WNEP Coordinator position were held on 10/29/08 and Vandervest participated in the interview process. Kari Lazars, former Family Living Agent for Langlade County, has accepted the position of WNEP Coordinator position for Oneida/Langlade Counties and her first day in the Oneida County office is November 20, 2008. Lazars' time will be split as equally as possible between counties but noted her support staff is located here. Salary is paid completely by the state but the program brings in over \$400,000 in grant monies into both counties. Lazars will work at 50% until December 1st until she becomes full-time. Committee members requested a letter be provided to all County Board supervisors introducing Lazars.

Oneida County Fair planning: Winkler noted a Fair Planning Team meeting was held on November 10th with the same Planning Team members attending as last year.

An alternative plan was presented for the event which included moving it to Pioneer Park -- walking distance for many residents and offer parking at the old hospital with a shuttle service using the trolley carts. Pioneer Park already has amenities such as the camp museum, sawmill, school house, baseball diamond, seating and restrooms. This would automatically connect the event with Old Rhinelander, Downtown Rhinelander, Inc. and the City of Rhinelander. Planning Team members felt the event should stay at Hodag 50 in 2009 and investigate moving in 2010. Vandervest indicated the City would need to do work to the bathrooms at Pioneer Park, which was discovered during the Centennial Celebration. She also suggested contacting Mike Hastreiter about having an old fashioned baseball game that was showcased at the Centennial. Lengthy discussion followed.

Winkler noted the office cannot provide the same level of support as last year as staff devoted most of their time to fair related duties for 6-7 weeks and everything else took back burner. Kuzlik noted other counties typically address only the 4-H portion of the fair. Another planning meeting will be held in January or February and if there isn't a sufficient volunteer base, Kuzlik will request the event be cancelled for 2009. Planning Team members will do some recruitment to get more people. Discussion followed.

The contract with Hodag 50 was renegotiated in 2008 to pay a flat fee for the three days since it was free admission. Winkler noted that Geri VanHarpen (Hodag 50) wishes to be a partner in the Fair and may be willing to work with the county on the event. Vandervest expressed her dismay that outlying communities don't participate in

the planning of the "county fair" and requested a letter seeking volunteers for the Oneida County Fair be sent via email to area Chambers of Commerce to post in their newsletters. Petroskey and Rudolph requested the same letter be sent to all town chairs for posting at the town halls. Committee also requested a press release seeking volunteers be sent to the local media as well.

Winkler noted there is the issue of the contract with Hodag 50 and storage of Fair supplies and equipment would need to be addressed if the is venue changed.

Kumbera felt that having an Oneida County Fair week with events happening in all communities during the week would be a good way to make this a county-wide event.

Northern Economic Summit: Kuzlik attended the Governor's Northern Economic Summit on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Over 125 people participated. Main issues addressed included workforce development, healthcare, AIS (aquatic invasive species) and broadband technology. Kuzlik was invited to present a workforce development workshop on Monday and was the keynote speaker discussing economic issues in the northern region, history of Extension, and how Extension plays a part in dealing with economic issues on Tuesday. Kuzlik circulated the brochure from the meeting.

Teen Court: A planning meeting was held recently and Vandervest voiced her disappointment at the turnout. Winkler reported Kids in Need (KIN), a non-profit youth organization funded by grants and the United Way, has approved Kris Caricco (KIN) to spend up to eight hours a week to coordinate the program. KIN and Winkler are putting together a proposal to bring back to the Planning Committee in early December. The schools and YMCA have offered in-kind services such as printing. The Juvenile Court Clerk will be directing offenders into youth court if it applies. In short, the program should not cost the County anything.

Vandervest noted the Planning Committee discussed pros and cons of Teen Court vs restorative justice program. Winkler noted the Planning Committee wishes to call it "Youth Court" because some courts in the state are seeing youth as young as 10 having issues.

Monthly agent reports: Thompson asked about 4-H enrollment numbers. Winkler noted we have approximately 100 youth enrolled in the traditional 4-H program, with five active clubs and many independent members. In 2008, the program has had about 900 youth development contacts (workshops, short-term activities, education).

Motion by Petroskey/Vandervest to approve the monthly agent reports as printed. All ayes; motion carried.

Out-of-county travel requests:

Kuzlik:

12/3/08	WCEA Board meeting	Wausau***
12/9/08	Civil Rights Review Team	La Crosse**

McGee:

11/5/08	UW Superior	Superior*
11/12/08	PACE Workshop	Stevens Point*

Winkler:

10/30/08	Judge District Land Conservation speaking contest (rode in County van)	Wausau*
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Terzinski:

11/6/08	4-H Plus Workshop	Wausau*
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*county van
**district/state expense
***grant/other expense

Motion by Rudolph/Thompson to approve the out-of-county travel requests as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Public comment: Kuzlik thanked Committee members for responding so well to the proposed cut to our departmental budget at the November County Board. It is greatly appreciated by the entire department.

Jim Kumbera noted meetings will be held on 12/17-18 to address the marketing and feasibility study for Green Business Park. Meetings will be held with lenders and CPAs along with the Executive Committee on 12/17/08. There will be a meeting with elected officials on the morning of 12/18/08 and a general open meeting that afternoon. Ernie Lowe from Indigo Development and Foth will be at the stakeholders meeting on 12/18/08 at Nicolet College in the Auditorium. Kumbera estimates that invitations will be sent the first week in December.

Preplanning documents are over 150 pages in length and will be made available electronically (via CD) or for checkout and available at the OCEDC Office or the County Clerk's Office at the Courthouse. Distribution of the plan must be approved.

Infrastructure cost of the park remains at \$12 million with full build-out at 10 years, at a cost of \$55 million in public and private investments. Kumbera noted the preplanning documents must be read with an open mind and do not form a conclusion. If we are to exceed in diversifying our economic base, we need to develop are different kind of park

-- unlike any park seen today. A sole governing covenant for land use must be developed and there may some political issues that need to be addressed. Many

different components will be addressed at the park including K-University education, how to get tourists to come to the park and how get them to invest in it.

The project is on budget and County has begun process of withdrawing property from forest management at a cost of about \$39,000.

Items for next agenda: Fair planning, youth court, OCEDC report.

Adjournment: Motion by Rudolph/Thompson at 2:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Paul Dean, Chair.