

**Agriculture & Extension Education Committee**  
**June 9, 2009**  
**Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Chair Paul Dean, Denny Thompson, Wilbur Petroskey, and Tom Rudolph. Absent: Romelle Vandervest (excused). TAG member: Mary Benbenek.

**Others present:** Dan Kuzlik, Kari Lazars, Jim Kumbera, Jim Lillis and guest, and Kerri Ison.

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Paul Dean at 1:30 p.m.

**Approval of agenda:** Motion by Petroskey/Rudolph to approve the agenda for today. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approval of minutes:** Motion by Rudolph/Thompson to approve the minutes of May 12, 2009. Discussion followed. All ayes; motion carried.

**Date(s) of future meetings:**

7/14/09	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
8/11/09	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

**Introduce Summer Horticulture Assistant:** Kuzlik introduced Ashley Wentz, summer horticulture assistant for 2009. Roundtable introductions were held.

Wentz is a senior at UW River Falls with plans to graduate in May 2010 with a biology major and conservation minor. She will attend the Clean Boats Clean Waters workshop in Three Lakes this week and also the WI Association of Lakes meeting in Hayward later this month. Rudolph suggested having her participate in OCLRA meeting on Saturday as well.

Kuzlik noted he and Wentz are working with her professors to use the position as an internship, which would allow for an additional 140 hours paid from grant funds. Due to the pending merger of Extension and the Land and Water Department, this summer position will model the full-time horticulture agent position with AIS duties that he proposed at a recent Labor Relations Committee meeting.

**OCEDC update:** Kumbera noted the business park presentation planned for the June County Board meeting will be put on hold until August. Steve Marmin, Vice President of the consulting firm, recently had emergency surgery and will not be able to attend the June meeting as planned.

Kumbera noted Jeff Collins (SonicNet) is completing his business plan and getting financial documents in order and OCEDC should receive them next week. Kumbera noted that because of the publicity the project has received Collins has gotten calls from tower owners offering space on their towers for a reasonable fee. This means the cost of the project could be considerably less than first anticipated and would only need to cover the construction of the number of towers needed. Collins would pay for space on existing towers and this would not be included in the loan. Depending on tower construction/space lease arrangements, 75% county coverage could be available by the end of the year. This is a very positive step for permanent residents, area students and tourists. Costs would include a connect fee of approximately \$299 and a monthly fee which would depend on services chosen. Discussion followed.

**Monthly budget report:** Motion by Petroskey/Rudolph to approve the monthly budget report for the period ending 4/30/09. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approval of invoices:** Motion by Thompson/Petroskey to approve the monthly invoices for the department and the Oneida County Fair. Discussion followed regarding carnival cost. All ayes; motion carried.

**Oneida County Fair planning:** Kuzlik reported the planning is going very well and the Committee is very active. They are meeting twice per month as a full committee and task forces are meeting as necessary. The City recently closed access to Pioneer Park to finish road construction. DRI has contracted to operate beer tent and give part of the proceeds back to the fair. Admission and parking will still be free, as well as many other activities. Wristbands will be sold for the carnival as well as pay-per-ride. Kuzlik has reserved five spots on Channel 12's Live at 5 with the theme "*Meet Me at the Fair.*" Fair dates are 8/14-16/09.

**Approval of contracts for Oneida County Fair:** None.

**WNEP Annual agreement:** Lazars reviewed the WNEP annual agreement provided in Committee packets which requires approval on a yearly basis. Each year the state estimates what each county donates in in-kind dollars (space, salaries, supplies, etc.) Oneida County's in-kind contributions this year total \$64,914. This information as well as the total of other in-kind contracts with outside agencies is submitted to the federal partner, who then matches that amount to provide programming in the county. The total share this year is just under \$200,000 for Oneida/Langlade Counties and it's about a 50/50 split between the two counties. Discussion followed. Motion by Thompson/Petroskey to approve the WNEP annual agreement. All ayes; motion carried.

**AIS Coordinator position/merger with Land & Water Department:** Kuzlik met recently with John Potters, Nancy Hollands and Jeanne Hanson regarding the AIS position and the possible merging of departments. The proposal is to merge UW-Extension and the Land and Water Departments, making Kuzlik department head over

both departments, with Jeanne Hanson taking over the AIS duties for the summer. If approved the departments would not physically merge at this time, but Kuzlik believes department relocations/restructuring issues will be addressed once the WPS building is vacated in August.

Rudolph noted the intent is to merge the two departments, to make Dan department head over both departments and to keep current staffing levels. The hope is this option would keep the AIS position alive. Rudolph noted we are not accomplishing what we would have accomplished while having a full-time AIS person; but we are doing the best we can with the resources and staff currently available. Jeanne Hanson is now full-time and the part-time secretary who moved to Social Services is again with Land and Water two days per week.

Kuzlik attended a Clean Boats/Clean Waters training to become more involved with the issue again and he is moving forward assuming that County Board will pass the proposal. The goal is to make sure we have an impact on area lakes over the summer. He is looking to demonstrate a "model" for the proposed horticulture agent position in which the state would pay 60% of the position. Currently the county pays 100% for the AIS position. If approved Kuzlik will then approach the state about the agent position and provide a more focused job description. If approved at the state level, the position would be posted and the application process would follow. Anyone already doing the job (i.e. county employee) would be welcome to apply. Discussion followed.

Kuzlik has received approval for federal stimulus funding to have two youth workers (ages 18-24) work on boat monitoring over the summer. Workers are paid through the stimulus dollars as long as we provide supervision and Wentz will be handling those duties. Lengthy discussion continued.

**Teen Court:** Winkler unavailable. Dean noted he recently spoke with Sheriff Hoffman who indicated he did not know the program was operational.

**Monthly agent reports:** Motion by Rudolph/Thompson to approve the monthly agent reports as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**Out-of-county travel requests:**

Kuzlik

6/12/09	North Central Land & Water meeting	Antigo*
6/22/09	Transportation meeting	Lac du Flambeau*
7/9/09	Tenure In-service	Stevens Point*

Winkler:

6/16/-19/09	WI Rural Leadership Program	Madison**
7/6-10/09	Oneida 4-H Camp w/Langlade County	Camp Susan, Elcho*

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

**Public comment:** None.

**Items for next agenda:** Fair planning, Teen Court, department merger.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Rudolph/Petroskey to adjourn at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

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Paul Dean, Chair