



***Mission:** We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.*

Florence County UW-Extension Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2013 – 5:30 PM

Florence Natural Resource Center - Lower Level - Large Conference Room

Members Present

Supervisors: Holly Wahlstrom Stratton – Chair, Larry Neuens – Vice Chair, Jeannette Bomberg, Susan Theer and Don Gardner

Others Present

Department Head/Community Resource Development Agent – Corrin Seaman
Family Living Agent – Jenette Chiamulera
Nutrition Educator – Jeanne Richard
4H/Youth Development Agent – Meg Dallapiazza
Support Staff – Kathy Bednarski
Jessica Klumpp – Florence County Fair Board

Supervisor Stratton called the meeting to order. Supervisor Gardner made a motion to approve the Agenda, supported by Supervisor Theer. Motion approved. Supervisor Bomberg made a motion to approve the March 2013 minutes, supported by Supervisor Wahlstrom. Minutes approved.

Fair Park Update – Jessica Klumpp

Jessica gave the committee a copy of the newsletter for the 2013 Florence County Fair. There will be a new inflatable rides company, Badger Bouncers. A new permanent pavilion, beer stand and kitchen will be built this year.

WNEP Agreement Letter – Discussion/Action

This is the Annual letter for office space and support for the Nutrition Educator Program. Supervisor Bomberg made a motion to sign the agreement letter, supported my Supervisor Gardner. Motion approved.

UWEX office space – Discussion/Action

Corrin Seaman passed out a letter from Pat Smith explaining the proposed reconfiguration of the office space in the Florence Resource Center. WI DNR is growing, and US Forest Service is cutting back. WDNR wants to move in the UW-Extension offices upstairs, and would like UW-Extension to move downstairs in the US Forest Service office area, which has been vacated. UW-Extension has been offered a maximum 5 year MOU, with a minimum of 2 years notice to vacate. With the reconfiguration comes an increased cost to the county. There would be remodeling, including walls, doors, windows, and updated HVAC.

The concern was losing US-Forest Service presence in the county. Right now all the new positions are choosing to be placed in the Eagle River office.

The committee felt that it was important to write advocacy letters to the US-Forest Service. Supervisor Bomberg made a motion to create an advocacy letter on behalf of the County Board to retain US-Forest Service positions in Florence County, supported by Supervisor Neuens. Motion approved.

The committee asked how the county is going to cover the increased cost of the move. The county provides office space to UWEX. The Resource Center divides expenses among the USFS, WDNR, and County. Therefore office space for UWEX and Forestry and Parks is paid for via one county budget, in this case through Forestry and Parks. Another concern is that UW-Extension was in the same Forest Service area before, and subsequently had to move when the USFS began to increase staff and seasonal LTEs. Supervisor Gardner made a motion to suspend the office space issue until there is more information from WI DNR, Forestry & Parks, US-Forest Service and to resolve the costs to the County, supported by Supervisor Bomberg. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gardner to research the MOU for the Florence Natural Resource Center and Wild Interpretive Center, supported by Supervisor Bomberg. Motion approved.

Summer Horticulture Assistant Update

Corrin Seaman reported that so far they have 2 applicants for the Hort Assistant position. Interviews will be held on May 20.

WACEC Report

Supervisor Wahlstrom Stratton and Supervisor Neuens gave a report about the WACEC conference they attended in Madison. They both met with local representatives and felt that it was important for UW-Extension committee members to stay in contact with them.

Educator Reports

Jeanette Chiamulera continues to work in the jail with the inmates.

Meg Dallapiazza mentioned that she went to the new Region meeting and was told that we have a very respected group of leaders in our UW-Extension committee.

Jeanne Richard worked with Florence High School students at the Keyes Peak Ski Lodge paid by Fuel Up to Play.

Corrin Seaman held the Natural Resource Education Class with 43 students.

Scott Reuss is doing Master Gardener Training in Florence County with 17 trainees.

Complete reports are on file at the UW-Extension office and have been provided to all supervisors.

Future Agenda Items

-UWEX Space Issues

Next Meeting Date – Monday, July 8, 2013 in the Florence Resource Center, Lower Level Conference Room.

Adjourn - Supervisor Neuens made a motion to adjourn, supported by Supervisor Gardner. Meeting adjourned.