

Agriculture & Extension Education Committee
March 13, 2008
Minutes

Committee members present: Wilbur Petroskey, Paul Dean, Romelle Vandervest, and Guy Hansen. Tom Rudolph, excused.

Others present: Dan Kuzlik, Jim Kumbera, Toni Rogers, Cathy Cleland, Patricia McGee, Jim Winkler, John Potters and Kerri Ison.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilbur Petroskey at 9 a.m.

Approve agenda: Motion by Romelle Vandervest/Paul Dean to approve the agenda. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve minutes: Motion by Paul Dean/Romelle Vandervest to approve the minutes of February 12, 2008 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

April 14, 2008 9 a.m. Extension meeting room

Community Garden presentation: Cathy Cleland, co-chair of the Rhinelander Area Community Garden, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Garden from inception to present. She noted RACG is an all volunteer organization started with the help of Toni Rogers. There are two garden sites, one by Phoenix Villa on Thayer Street and the Robinson Garden on Hwy P. Lots of donations and volunteers make the Garden project work. Grant monies were received by Fiskars for tools, demonstration gardens and raised beds for the handicapped. It is a great benefit to Food Pantry recipients and also provides teaching opportunities. Over the past year they participated in the garden tour and hosted several fundraisers. The group also received Hunger Hero award in 2007 -- the only rural community to receive the award.

This year the Garden will be open to the public on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 8-11 a.m. The gate will be locked on other days, but arrangements can be made for volunteers needing access at other times. Guy Hansen noted the volunteer base is very hard working and dedicated and it is a great asset to the community and food pantry.

Toni Rogers noted this presentation could be given to the townships to show some of the work that Extension does. The Committee thanked Cleland for the update.

OCEDC monthly update: Jim Kumbera reported the OCEDC Board has approved the contract for a consultant with Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC to begin Phase 1

-- feasibility, marketing and management plan for the new Sustainable Community Business Park. This portion of the contract will take about nine months to complete. A Review Committee will begin reviewing the draft documents as they come in. Kumbera is working with Mike Romportl on the annexation process and removing the parcel from managed forest crop. He estimates owing \$50,000 in back taxes once this occurs. OCEDC is submitting two

applications to USDA Rural Development for planning grants to help finance Phase 2. Kumbera invited the Committee to a tour of the park, but noted it is a three-hour walk on old logging roads. The site is very unique and they do not intend to do much excavation in an attempt to keep the integrity of the rural environment. There are only about 13 such parks in the nation. He noted there are a couple of interested parties but the park will not be available until 2010. They are looking at building "green" and are not sure if water and sewer will be installed. The goal of the park is to build more diversified economic base, provide meaningful employment and a more diversified tax base and retain a youthful workforce. Lengthy discussion followed. Kumbera noted this is going to be a long process and there is a great group making up the review committee guiding the project.

Kumbera showed a picture board with photos of the park and will develop a presentation to be given at the Annual Meeting on April 25. Fred Schnook, former mayor of Ashland, is the keynote speaker who will discuss sustainability and the vision of the business park.

Monthly budget report: Motion by Paul Dean/Guy Hansen to approve the Close-2 monthly budget report for the period ending 12/31/07. All ayes; motion carried. Motion by Romelle Vandervest/Paul Dean for the period ending 2/29/08. All ayes; motion carried.

2007 line item transfers: Motion by Guy Hansen/Romelle Vandervest to approve 2007 line item transfers as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

John Potters joined the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Monthly invoices: Motion by Romelle Vandervest/Paul Dean to approve the invoices as submitted. All ayes; motion carried.

Invoices for Oneida County Fair: None.

2007 line item transfers for Oneida County Fair: Ison noted she met with Margie Sorenson regarding the line item transfers for the Oneida County Fair. There is a request for monies from the contingency account to cover an overdraft from 2006 and a revenue shortage in 2007. Motion by Guy Hansen/Paul Dean to approve the 2007 line item transfers for the Oneida County Fair.

2008 Fair planning: Dan Kuzlik noted a plan for the 2008 fair will be presented to County Board for approval on Tuesday. The hope is to offer an old fashioned, two-day free fair with local entertainment for the general public in mid-August. The event will be scaled back with no plans to request funds from the contingency account. Fair board members, 4-H leaders and staff are excited to implement the new idea. There have been a lot of contacts made to be able to move forward quickly if the plan is approved.

Brian Desmond is working with Hodag 50 regarding the contract. The contract states Hodag 50 will get a percentage of the gate and there is no default. Interesting though, Desmond indicated the County cannot use the grounds for free, but is still bound to the contract. The approved budget of \$15,000 to spend on the event does not include funding for use of Hodag 50 grounds. Kuzlik has also discussed the insurance issue with Desmond, and Kuzlik suggested

he check with the insurance carrier to see if there is an umbrella to cover the event. Another option is for the County to purchase a two-day rider to cover the event. John Potters has talked with Brian Desmond and noted there are ways to hopefully lower the insurance levels or purchase a two-day rider. Lengthy discussion followed.

Monthly agent reports: Winkler noted Ponsse is ready to start harvesting trees for the Airport Nature Trail. The County Forester provided advice to youth and assisted with marking the trail within the four-acre parcel. Plan includes a picnic table and benches, depending upon funding. The hope is to have Phase 1 of the trail completed by May 15, but much depends on the weather. There has been a lot of in-kind service donated but haven't received any monetary donations so far.

Winkler noted a former restaurant owner wants to open a soup kitchen, to provide physical and spiritual food, as he feels the need is greater than The Table can address. The City Council does not agree there is a need. Winkler sits on the HCY Board and suggested they work together.

McGee noted the final edits for the poverty documentary should be done this week. She and Dave Luciani will begin work on sequencing. The preliminary narration has been written. The UWEX Marketing Specialist will assist with branding and marketing. It is a great cross-programming effort for UWEX.

McGee will attend the Strong Woman program, a physical activity/nutrition program to prevent osteoporosis. Northern District professional development funds will pay for registration and travel.

Motion by Romelle Vandervest/Paul Dean to accept the monthly agent reports. All ayes; motion carried.

Out-of-county travel requests:

Kuzlik:

3/10-11/08	Statewide Dept. Head Conference	Stevens Point*
3/19/08	Presentation to statewide transportation staff	Crandon***
4/1-3/08	JCEP Conference	Eau Claire*

McGee:

3/6-7/08	Building Communities of Respect	UW Barron County*
3/17/08	Trigs Workplace Wellness meeting	Minocqua*
3/19/08	Strong Women Training (Tuffs University)	Janesville***
3/19/08	Multicultural Workforce Network Meeting	Wausau*
3/26/08	Meeting with Nicole Urchol and Kristin Bond from Emily's Place	Superior*
3/27/08	Meeting UW Superior John Munson	Superior*

Winkler:

3/17/08 Meeting to prepare camp counselor training
4/18-19/08 WI Rural Leadership Program Orientation

Antigo*
Tomah*(mileage)
**(meals/lodging)

*county expense
**district/state expense
***grant/other expense

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

Teen Court update: Winkler met with the Judges and District Attorney regarding the Teen Court process and received their approval to begin working on a proposal. Teen Court is for first-time misdemeanor youth offenders only, who agree to go through Teen Court instead of Circuit Court. Youth must admit guilt and a parent must attend court with them. Once the process and sentence are completed, youth will not have a juvenile record. The three school districts in the county are interested in participating and representatives from the districts will participate in the planning process. The Committee thanked Winkler for pursuing the project.

Comprehensive planning follow-up: County Board approved a town driven plan at their February meeting. Kuzlik commended this Committee for supporting the concept and pushing the issue until it was passed.

Public Comment: None.

Items for next agenda: Fair planning.

Adjournment: Motion by Romelle Vandervest/Guy Hansen to adjourn at 10:45 a.m. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Wilbur Petroskey, Chair