

Agriculture & Extension Education Committee
December 16, 2008
Minutes

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

Others present: Dan Kuzlik, Kari Lazars, Jim Winkler, John Potters, Jim Kumbera, and Kerri Ison.

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Paul Dean.

Approve agenda: Motion by Rudolph/Thompson to approve today's agenda. All ayes; motion carried.

Introduce WNEP Coordinator: Kuzlik introduced Kari Lazars, WNEP Coordinator. Roundtable introductions were held. Lazars noted she lives south of Summit Lake and has been w/UWEX for the past six years as the Family Living Agent (60% time and 50% time department head with the Langlade County office. Past programming efforts include parenting and child development classes, financial education and parenting education at the Langlade County Jail. She has worked in the area of poverty for the last several years and also provided programming to audiences who did not meet income requirements. Lazars feels the WNEP Coordinator position blends well with nutrition and poverty. She hopes to keep all current agreements in tact as well as expand programming into preschool and daycare-aged groups. Committee members welcomed Lazars to Oneida County.

Approve minutes: Motion by Petroskey/Thompson to approve the minutes of November 19, 2008 as printed. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

1/13/09 1:30 p.m. Extension classroom

Monthly budget report: Motion by Thompson/Rudolph to approve the monthly budget report for the period ending 11/30/08. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly invoices: Motion by Petroskey/Rudolph to approve the monthly invoices as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Fair invoices: None.

Oneida County Fair planning: Kuzlik noted the core group continues to be very interested -- though small with 7-9 members. Tammy Gobert has been elected Chair, with Kendy Gee as Vice Chair.

With the assistance of Brian Desmond, the idea of moving the event from Hodag 50 to Pioneer Park is being explored. This would provide instant partners: Old Rhinelander, the City of Rhinelander, and Downtown Rhinelander, Inc. There are already venues in place such as the Sawmill, LCC camp, Old Schoolhouse, Railroad Museum, a baseball diamond with seating, and the Hodag Farmer's Market on Saturday without lots of open space. One detriment is parking won't be as plentiful, but hopefully Ministry will allow use of the old hospital lot for parking and transport fairgoers with the trolley cars. Discussion followed. The City, DRI and Old Rhinelander feel it is a good idea and are ready to come on board to make the event work. Winkler and Gobert met with a potential carnival vendor who felt it was doable at Pioneer Park. It also looks seems this carnival would fit into the budget and bring back the fair atmosphere.

Winkler noted if the event can be relocated to Pioneer Park, and depending upon how the contract with Hodag 50 plays out, there are supplies, bleachers, animal pens, and two semi trailers full of display cases, lattice and other supplies which the County may need to store. He also noted if the event stays at Hodag 50 in 2009, there are major electrical issues in the barn that must be addressed. During the 2008 inspection, the Pine Lake Fire Department mandated upgrades prior to use in 2009. Discussion followed.

Both Dean and Thompson voiced their support of moving the event to Pioneer Park.

Rudolph wondered about space/housing for exhibits at Pioneer Park. Old Rhinelander noted their current buildings could be reconfigured to house exhibits and Winkler felt the shelters could be temporarily made into an exhibit hall and/or have a large tent. The horse show could fit into the ice rink area and the bleachers could be used in all areas of the grounds. Bill Bell is very open about bringing the event into the City.

Motion by Rudolph/Thompson providing the Agriculture & Extension Education Committee's support for moving the Oneida County Fair to Pioneer Park provided the lease with Hodag 50 can be terminated for 2009. All ayes; motion carried.

The Fair planning team is meeting at 5 p.m. this evening and will continue to address the issue.

OCEDC monthly update: Kumbera reminded Committee members of the stakeholders meetings on 12/18/08 regarding the new business park. The 8:30 a.m. meeting is geared specifically towards county, city, and town elected officials, along with other business people. The afternoon session is more of an open forum for interested parties. Both meetings will be held at Nicolet College in the LRC and Bob Brusio has agreed to post both meetings. Kumbera encouraged all County Board Supervisors to attend -- it is a good opportunity to be introduced into the project. One consultant will not be in attendance due to illness but will be connected via telephone.

It will soon be time for decision-making, so the more informed people are, the easier those decisions will be to make.

Youth Court: Winkler has been meeting with Kris Carrico from Kids in Need (KIN), who has been approved to work with Youth Court eight (8) hours per week. They have been working on a youth court proposal that will encompass all three school districts in Oneida County. Another planning meeting will be held in mid-January to which all partners will be invited. It is hoped to have the proposal ready for approval by the judges by February 1, 2009 and begin the application process in schools to interview youth court panel members. Hopefully the first court session can be held in late spring.

Winkler noted the project is still in the planning stages but both LUHS and Rhinelander School Districts are supportive of the project and youth from LUHS will help train youth from other districts. Winkler distributed a draft brochure and promotional piece that will be provided to law enforcement, youth offenders, parents, etc.

Winkler reiterated his desire to have the blessing of the Oneida County Board of Supervisors, but because KIN has agreed to "run" it their support is not mandatory. Several organizations have pledged in-kind support and at this time, Winkler doesn't believe Youth Court will require county funding. KIN is currently writing a grant to help support the program.

Potters felt there will be questions at the County Board level as to departmental costs of providing in-kind services (law enforcement or Social Services, etc.) above and beyond the normal expenses of that particular department. Rudolph agreed there will likely be such questions, but believes we need to change the thinking about what is being done with youth prevention/intervention. It is not a cost but an investment in the youth's future and the program will save the county much money in the future. Petroskey noted an attorney or judge's time is of high value and a Youth Court could save the county money by not using those services.

Rudolph would like to see this Committee in full support and united at County Board. Thompson noted it is a hard sell with his towns as his constituents feel there are enough services and they believe some projects are "make work" projects. Taxes have continued to increase due to the increase in property values and he can only support something his constituents support. Discussion continued.

Potters recently attended a workshop about how the Youth Court works with the restitution part of it and has some information for Winkler. Lengthy discussion continued.

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

Out of county travel requests: Paul Dean asked John Potters to clarify the approval of out-of-county travel. Potters noted the county code reads that travel should be approved by the committee of jurisdiction, not just the committee chair. He also noted there are past practice issues.

Winkler:

1/6-9/09	WI Rural Leadership Program @ Treehaven	Tomahawk***
1/21/09	AODA Training	Tomahawk*
2/5/09	Meat Animal Quality Assurance Training	Iron County*

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

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

Public comment/communications: Kuzlik circulated draft minutes from the 12/15/08 Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting. He asked Committee members to review the discussion regarding the UW-Extension lease with the Airport and requested the issue be placed on the January agenda.

Items for next agenda: Youth Court, UWEX/Airport lease, Oneida County Fair planning, OCEDC update.

Adjournment: Adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Paul Dean, Chair