

NATURAL RESOURCES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Manitowoc County Office Complex
Thursday, September 2, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Cathy Wagner at 4:30p.m.

Those present were: Cathy Wagner, Melvin Waack, Andy Schneider, and Laurie Burke. Susie Maresh was excused. Also present was UW-Extension District Director Karen Hintz, Kevin Palmer, and Faye Malek.

There was no public.

Motion by Andy Schneider, second by Laurie Burke, to approve the minutes of the August 2010 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Melvin Waack, second by Andy Schneider, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Faye shared an emailed correspondence from UW-Manitowoc Interim Dean and CEO, Dr. Martin Rudd which included: 1.) An eager class of new "Next Step" students from Manitowoc Schools started on campus on 1st September, 2.) As of this morning, we topped 600 students enrolled in our classes - an exact figure will be available later in the week, but it represents an increase of close to 10% over last year!, and 3.) Mark Swanson and I have traveled to UW-Sheboygan to meet with the Dean of the College of Education from UW-Oshkosh: we are working on a collaborative degree in special education that will provide additional cross-training for current teachers within the Manitowoc schools.

Faye gave an update on the current office budget which is on target, and shared that the 2011 budget was submitted.

The staffing update included: 1.) A UW-Manitowoc work study student was hired to assist with clerical work during the school year. She begins September 13th and the office pays \$1.80 hourly for her ten hour per week appointment. 2.) Jean Rausch was hired as the new Multicultural Coordinator with the remaining UW-Chancellor grant funds. She started Sept. 2nd and will work 10-15 hours per week. Jean will use the volunteer cubical. The volunteers and others will be using Aimee's work area Monday - Wednesday.

Kevin Palmer provided the monthly educator report and shared results of youth participation at the WI State Fair. He indicated that this was another positive and useful educational experience for Manitowoc County youth, teaching them many life skills. He provided the committee members with a "Survey of the Manitowoc County Fair- 2010" which is used to electronically collect information regarding the youth experience at the fair. Kevin announced the 2010 4-H Family Fun Night set for September 21st at Expo. The event typically draws 500 - 700 attendees and it helps promote 4-H to prospective members. Since this is occurring the same time as the Manitowoc County Board meeting, and since there will be a proclamation honoring national 4-H week at that meeting, Kevin is working to Skype a presentation from Expo to the County Board room. There was a motion by Andy Schneider, second by Laurie Burke to approved Kevin's request to attend a 2010 North Central Region 4-H Volunteer Forum in East Lansing, MI where he will be a co-presenter. The dates are October 7 - 10th. He indicated he would reserve a county car to decrease mileage expenses.

Karen Hintz meets annually with all Natural Resource and Extension Committees throughout the 13 counties in the UW-Extension Eastern District. She reconnected with previous NREC members and met Melvin and Laurie. Karen shared the value UW-Extension brings to the county through volunteers, access to people where they live and work, meeting local needs through research-based education, conducting local research, and through educational partnerships with government, organizations, and coalitions. Karen indicated the three Extension faculty members are in their second year of taking eight unpaid state-mandated furlough days, and that it is expected, but not assured, that the furlough days would not continue beyond July 2011. There was no raise in faculty salaries during this time period, all of which amounted to a 5% salary reduction. She encouraged attendance at the PILD Conference in spring stating that a delegate from Petri's Congressional District would be selected. Both Cathy Wagner and Susie Maresh have attended in the past. The annual WACEC Conference is scheduled for March 28-30, 2011 in Madison. Legislative visits will be made at that time.

Motion to adjourn by Andy Schneider, second by Laurie Burke. Meeting adjourned at 5:17p.m. The next meeting of the NREC is October 7th immediately following the ADRC Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Faye Malek
Manitowoc County UW-Extension Department Director