

Community Partner Advisory Group (CPAG) Notes

University of Wisconsin – Extension, Lincoln County

May 24, 2007
T.B Scott Free Library
(Downstairs Conference Room)
106 West First Street, Merrill, WI

Meeting Notes

I. 5:30 – 5:40 p.m. Introductions

II. 5:40 – 6:00 p.m. Lincoln County Demographic Trends

Art Lersch, CNRED (Community, Natural Resources, Economic Development) Educator provided a brief overview of predicted county, regional, and state demographic trends over the next twenty-five years. He focused primarily on the county's, region's, and state's aging population.

III. 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Networking

IV. 6:30 – 6:45 p.m. Review of Last Meeting's Pressing Issues Discussion *(Based on your knowledge of Lincoln County in general and issues arising in your communities, please tell us what you believe are the most pressing needs/issues that should be addressed in the next two years).*

Following a brief review of the major themes (total of eight; see previous meeting notes) that emerged while considering the statement above, the CNRED educator asked group members if they would like to add anything to the responses given at the last meeting. The following addition was submitted.

- Change education to suit changing needs as well as the needs of those youth with autism, attention deficit disorder, and hyperactivity disorder, etc.

A member who was unable to make this meeting wished to clarify a couple of points she made at the last CPAG session.

When discussing transportation issues, she wished to make it clear that her concern was primarily about a lack of public transportation for those county residents under age 60. She feels that the county is doing a good job providing transportation to seniors and the disabled, although further improvements could likely be made with those services. She also believes that Extension and others can/should hold an education series on conservation and sustainability, treating the two subjects in such a way as to show they go hand in hand.

V. 6:45 – 7:15 p.m – 7:25 p.m. Brief Overview of UWEX, Lincoln County Programs

Debbie Moellendorf and Amanda Kostman provided a brief overview of local 4H programming. Tom Cadwallader provided an overview of Extension’s local agriculture related programming and services. Brenda Herrell spoke about Family Living and Wisconsin Nutrition education programs provided through the local Extension. Art Lersch gave a brief overview of the programs and services he provides as the local Extension community, natural resources and economic development educator.

VI. 7:15 p.m. – 7:25 p.m. CPAG Discussion (including input from those who could not be at meeting)

Based on your knowledge of the University of Wisconsin – Extension, Lincoln County, please tell us what needs/issues you believe Extension has the ability to address or to help address in collaboration with other organizations in the next two years. (What are some other organizations that can help address these needs/issues?)

Group members agreed that UWEX, Lincoln County is already doing many positive things in its service to the community. They also agreed that the organization should begin to focus on marketing those positive things in various ways throughout the county. As part of this discussion, there was emphasis on primarily two points:

- Create a new marketing plan
- Look to advertise services face to face; reach people through business after hours events, civic clubs, etc.

Other ideas were:

- [Identify] employment skill gaps and create programs with employers to address real needs of employees and potential employees in and effort to further develop their skill gap weaknesses
- Help to provide education about the changing ways of doing work (including telecommuting)
- Help to address the lack of high speed Internet access in the county

VII. 7:25 – 7:30 p.m. Next Meeting

The next CPAG meeting will be scheduled for sometime next fall. The specific date, time and location of the meeting will be announced as we get closer to the fall months.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.