

Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting
MINUTES

Thursday, August 23, 2007 Meeting—6:30 PM

County Committee Room, Room 111
Government Center—Elkhorn, WI

Hoss Rehberg, Co-Chairman, called the August meeting of the Community Partner Advisory Group to order at 6:35 p.m.

Roll call—CPAG members present: Kathy Baumeister, Thomas Ganfield, Dianne Kegley, Mary Kaye Merwin, Darlene Pinnow, Hoss Rehberg, Kathleen Tober, and Mary VanderVeen. A quorum was declared.

Members not in attendance: Jacqueline Buleje, Bob Handel (excused), Brittany Hammel, John Holmes, Sheri Nelson (excused), Gen Reed, and Doc Sterken.

Ag and Extension Education Committee present—None.

UWEX staff present— Peg Reedy, Agribusiness Agent, and Laura Becker, 4H and Youth Development Educator.

Public in attendance— None.

There were no withdrawals from the Agenda. **Tober moved to approve the agenda as presented, with a second by Baumeister. The motion carried 10-0.**

Public comment—There was no public comment.

UWEX Department Report – Departmental updates 4H and Youth Development Educator Laura Becker was introduced to the group and she gave an overview of 4H in Walworth County and programs that were currently offered in the county. **Merwin asked for Becker’s vision of 4H in Walworth County.**

Value of Agriculture in Walworth County – Discussion of draft resolution—Reedy updated the group on the status of the draft resolution supporting the Walworth County Land Use Plan. It has passed the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee and was added to the agenda of the Land Use Committee. It was tabled until the next meeting of the Smart Growth Committee since that committee was currently discussing issues that were included on the resolution. The committee would like to get the resolution passed before the County Board is downsized.

WACEC District 2 Summer Meeting—CPAG members attending the August 1 WACEC summer meeting hosted by Walworth County shared their thoughts and Reedy shared the positive comments from the Southern District and Dean’s office pertaining to the meeting. The Walworth County CPAG was represented by Baumeister, VanderVeen, Pinnow, and Tober.

CPAG Mission/SWOT Analysis—Reedy presented Walworth County CPAG mission statement. The group conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis for

the CPAG to prioritize programming by Extension in the county based on the needs identified in the analysis. The issues identified by the CPAG group in each of the categories and weighted importance of each included:

Strengths:

- Agricultural heritage/current - 1
- Changing demographics – 0
- Natural resources/open spaces, water and air quality – 7
- Quality of life/education, employment, income levels, low crime, good work ethic, programs for low-income families – 9
- Rich mix of tourism, industry, agriculture – 6
- Many invested stakeholders/volunteers – 1

Weaknesses:

- Diminishing family farm – 5
- No unified services/support for homeless – 2
- Staff cuts/shortage of funds – 4
- Facilities not available for meetings – 1
- Younger adults not involved – 4
- Unregulated development/no guidelines for towns – 3
- Cultural differences/ illegal immigrant issues – 2
- Continuity with programs/busy schedules – 4

Opportunities:

- Promotion of UWEX
 - Schools, flea markets, fair - 1
 - New audiences with new needs – 3
 - Population growth – 2
 - Extension more visible – 6
- Rural Life
- High quality of life and environment – 2
- Variety of work and education nearby – 6
- Proximity to urban areas – 1
- Education/arts
- Food pantries, services to low income families - 2

Threats:

- Competition for limited funding/resources (budget, staff, resources) – 9
- Competition for time/talents (volunteers, options for youth) – 5
- Changing demographics
 - Lack of sense of community – 5
 - Surrounded by fast-growing urban counties – 0
 - Aging population – 5
 - Threat of crime (ease of travel) – 0

Next Meeting Date—The CPAG will next meet on October 22, 2007, at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment—**Kegley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m., and Newhouse seconded the motion. The motion carried 10-0.**

Submitted by Peg Reedy, recording secretary. Minutes approved by the Advisory Group on October 22, 2007.

