

Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006 Meeting—6:30 PM

Wisconsin Room

County Courthouse Annex—Elkhorn, WI

James D' Alessandro, Chairman, called the February 28 meeting of the Community Partner Advisory Group to order at 6:32 p.m.

Roll call—CPAG members present included James D' Alessandro, Elton Feffer, Thomas Ganfield, Dianne Kegley, Sheri Nelson, John Newhouse, Gen Reed, Hoss Rehberg, Nina Ruskey, Kathleen Tober, and Mary VanderVeen. Jackie Buleje arrived at approximately 6:33 p.m. A quorum was declared.

Ag and Extension Education Committee present—Stan Muzatko, Chair.

UWEX staff present—Carolyn L. Belczyk, Department Head, and Angie Recknagel, Recording Secretary. Peg Reedy, Ag/Agribusiness Educator arrived at approximately 6:38 p.m.

Public in attendance— Sarah Burgert, CNRED Educator, Green County UW-Extension.

There were no withdrawals from the Agenda. **Feffer moved to approve the agenda as presented, with a second by Newhouse. The motion carried 11-0.**

Reed moved to approve the minutes of the October 25 Community Partner Advisory Group meeting, with a second by Kegley. The motion carried 12-0.

Public comment—There was no public comment.

Status of CPAG membership for 2006—Belczyk suggested that we go around the room and introduce ourselves, which everyone did. They also explained what brings them to CPAG. Belczyk explained that there is currently still one vacancy on the group from the SW quadrant. A male youth, not necessarily from 4-H, would add balance to the group.

Discussion of how to fill remaining vacancy in SW quadrant –Belczyk asked for suggestions from the group for filling the vacancy. Reed indicated that she could ask Marty Speth, the Ag teacher at the DDHS and will get back to the committee. Sheri indicated that she is willing to attempt to recruit someone from that quadrant when she visits Big Foot High School next week.

Report of Annual Report Team (D' Alessandro, Buleje, Rehberg, and Ruskey) – D' Alessandro gave a brief overview of the report that was distributed to all group members and presented at the January 16 meeting of the county's Ag and Extension Education Committee. He believes that a positive response was received from the committee. Ruskey asked if there could be some additional explanation of the CNRED Educator role. Belczyk explained to the group that CNRED educators work in the areas of community and economic development, natural resource management, community leadership, etc. Walworth County had a CNRED educator position for

a number of years, but when the position became vacant in 2002, funding was not provided for filling it in the 2003 county budget. The position has not existed since. D'Alessandro asked the members about their feelings on proceeding with exploration of the three areas identified by the Ag and Extension Education Committee. Tober explained a little about the youth court issue. Reed asked if it is possible to have someone from the judicial center come and talk to the group. Tober asked about how and where the elderly fit into these issues. Consensus was reached to explore these issues further in 2006.

Elections of Chair/Vice Chair for 2006 – Rehberg was nominated for the position of vice-chair and D'Alessandro and Buleje were both nominated for chair. Nominations were closed. Rehberg will serve as vice chair. Buleje was elected, by a vote of 7-5, to serve as chair.

Community Leadership Programs – Sarah Burgert – Belczyk introduced Burgert. She is the CNRED Educator in Green County and provides leadership to a Community Leadership Program in the county. This is one of the issues identified by the Ag and Extension Committee for further exploration by this group.

Burgert further introduced herself, distributed handouts, and explained more of what her position entails. Burgert reported on the purpose of the Green County community leadership program and described who partners with her on program planning and delivery, fees, program topics, etc. Burgert then facilitated some discussion among CPAG members regarding the need for this type of programming in Walworth County. Reed believes it would be a great idea. D'Alessandro also believes it would be great; however he doesn't believe anyone on CPAG would be able to run a program such as this, as they are volunteers. Belczyk clarified that it is the CPAG's role to recommend programming, based on community issues and needs, to the Ag and Extension Committee and UW-Extension staff. If the group is interested in further pursuing the topic, then a subcommittee could be formed to look into several issues, such as need for the program, potential community partners, fees and funding, etc. Consensus was reached to pursue the idea further. Buleje, Reed, Ruskey, and Ganfield volunteered to serve on the subcommittee, which was asked to report back on their findings at the group's next meeting.

Next Meeting Date—The CPAG will next meet on April 25, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. at the Annex. The committee agreed that it would be beneficial for Reedy to present her program on the Economic Impact of Agriculture in Walworth County and to facilitate some discussion on the related Ag issues and programming impacts. These ag-related issues are "hot" topics in the county, across the state, and nationally, and this is an issue that was identified in October by this group for further exploration.

Adjournment—**Feffer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., and D'Alessandro seconded the motion. The motion carried 12-0.**

Submitted by Angie Recknagel, recording secretary. Minutes approved by the Advisory Group on April 25, 2006.