

Community Partner Advisory Group Meeting
MINUTES
Monday, November 30, 2004 Meeting—7:00 PM

Wisconsin Room
County Courthouse Annex--Elkhorn, WI

Stan Muzatko, Ag and Extension Education Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Roll call—CPAG members present included James D’Alessandro, Elton Feffer, Yvonne Fiskum, Dianne Kegley, Letha Kuecker, Barb Papcke, Hoss Rehberg, Nina Ruskey (appointment pending Board approval on 12/14/04), Christopher Stebnitz, and Kathleen Tober. A quorum was declared. Gen Reed arrived at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Ag and Extension Education committee present—Committee members present included Dorothy Burwell, Don Fredrich, Roy Lightfield, Stan Muzatko, and Sandra Wagie-Troemel. Greg Wescott was excused.

County staff present—Carolyn L. Belczyk, Department Head, Jan Ellsworth, 4-H Program Assistant, Mark Konlock, Horticulture Educator, Peg Reedy, Ag/Agribusiness Educator, Jenny Wehmeier, Family Living Educator and Angie Recknagel, Recording Secretary.

Public in attendance—None.

There were no withdrawals from the Agenda. **Supervisor Wagie-Troemel moved to approve the agenda as presented, with a second by Supervisor Lightfield. The motion carried.**

Public comment—There was no public comment.

Committee Organization—Belczyk welcomed everyone and introduced a get-acquainted activity in which members interviewed one another and then introduced each other to the group. Answers to the final interview question, "In your view, what is the most significant issue facing Walworth County's (youth, families, farm operators, or communities) in the next two-to-four years?" were written on easel paper at the front of the room and shared in the introductions.

Responses included:

Youth—*need to identify and program to meet needs of youth (2); Lakeland School; gang issues; diversity within communities; preparing youth for workforce –technology and education, direction and preparation; HCE concern with preserving our boys and girls, the nation's greatest asset; reaching more and diverse youth (ethnic, disabled, males); providing positive activities in coordination with families and schools.*

Families—*Parenting; Farm families (keeping them intact and able to make a living from family farm.*

Farm Operators—*Small farmers being pushed out by big corporate farmers (2); direct marketing of ag products; farm youth and family concerns; economic development; loss of farmland to development; cost of insurance for farm families is too high.*

Communities—*need for orderly growth in Walworth County; community growth; need for planning to help communities deal with population growth; loss of "downtown" businesses; master gardener programs/opportunities.*

Belczyk and Muzatko reviewed the CPAG concept as advocated by Dean Arlen Leholm and indicated that Walworth County is one of only 23 counties across the state that is forming a CPAG. Our group is one of the first to organize and has been created by county ordinance to serve in an advisory capacity to the Ag and Extension Education Committee. Belczyk referenced a handout included in the packet, which listed the group's mission, purposes, and membership composition as defined in the ordinance, approved by the Board on September 9. The members were nominated by Ag and Extension Education Committee members or by staff or they responded to the call for citizen volunteers when it was in local papers. All completed applications, were recommended for appointment by the county's Ag and Extension Education and Executive Committees, and all but one have been approved by the full Board. Nina Ruskey's appointment will be on the Board's agenda at its December 14 meeting.

Muzatko called for nominations to the positions of chair and vice chair, explaining that the group does not need to elect a secretary, as Angie Recknagel will continue to serve in that role in support of the group. There was discussion regarding the specific roles of the chair and vice chair, as well as discussion about term limits and the group's organization. Belczyk reminded everyone that only CPAG members were able to make motions and vote at these meetings.

Papcke moved to table the election of the chair and vice-chair of the CPAG until its next meeting, with a second by Rehberg. The motion carried. D'Alessandro suggested asking anyone interested in being the chair or vice-chair of the CPAG to contact either Belczyk or Muzatko directly. It was also decided by consensus that there would be annual elections for these two positions and that terms on the CPAG will be effective as of January 1 or the closest meeting to January 1. Belczyk agreed to work with the Ag and Extension Education Committee to develop some proposed operational guidelines for the group, as well as job descriptions for the chair and vice chair. These will be discussed at the next meeting.

Group members drew for terms, to ensure that no more than half the group would be new in any given year (staggered terms). One-year terms were drawn by or for Fiskum, Kuecker, Newhouse, Papcke, Reed, Rehberg, Stebnitz, and Vander Veen. Two-year terms were drawn by or for Cooper, D'Alessandro, Feffer, Kegley, Kienbaum, Ruskey, and Tober. The appointee to the vacant position will serve a two-year term, as well.

Committee Orientation—UW-Extension staff presented a PowerPoint program to orient CPAG members to the UW-Extension system and mission, as well as to some demographics of Walworth County and current UW-Extension programming in the county. Belczyk, Reedy, Konlock, and Wehmeier each presented their programs and relevant demographics to the group as part of the overall presentation. (Handout distributed in packet.)

Next Steps—No discussion. The group will continue its discussion of strategic issues at its next meeting.

Next Meeting Date—The CPAG will meet on January 31, 2005, at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment—**Feffer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m., and Stebnitz seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Submitted by Angie Recknagel, recording secretary. Minutes approved by the Advisory Group on January 31, 2005.