

**Southern District Resource Management Team Meeting  
March 18, 2009 Minutes**

**Present:** Mindy Habecker, Peggy Compton, Alissa Grenawalt, Lee Cunningham, Patti Herman, Peg Reedy, Dick Pederson, Lesly Scott, Donna Peterson

**Welcome and Updates:** Shared news. Still need a member filling Department Head and 4-H Youth Development for the Team by our next meeting. Walworth County decided to fund a CNRED academic staff position for the county with an emphasis on local government and economic development programming. Long-term goal is to make this a faculty position. Some of the district's one time money is to be given as seed money for this position.

**Review and approve meeting minutes from January 7, 2009:** Herman moved and Grenawalt seconded to accept the meeting minutes from January 7, 2009. Unanimously approved by the team.

**Decisions on Innovative Grants:** Most of the six applicants asked for modest amounts of money and all program areas were represented with a lot of variety in the projects. Fewer applications received this year than last year. Some applicants have matching funding of unknown status. Do we need to know more about outside funding if it is needed to make the project feasible? Cunningham moved and Herman seconded to fully fund the 6 applicants for innovative grants for a total of \$12,036.00. The Team unanimously approved motion. The following grants were awarded:

- Michael Wickus, Sauk Co 4-H \$1336
  - Create a 4-H Community Club for Bluffview Community and an 4-H Afterschool Club for the Dells Area Learning Center and expand and make sustainable current Baraboo Afterschool Clubs. Create and distribute a lessons learned document regarding reaching diverse audiences (Hispanic, American Indian, low-income).
- Becky Gutzman, Columbia Co WNEP \$1000
  - Provide a regional mini food security forum targeting Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Adams, Juneau, and Marquette Counties.
- Peg Reedy, Walworth Co Ag/Agribusiness \$3000
  - Develop 10-12 barn quilts and promote rural culture, architecture, local food for rural Walworth County.
- Chrissy Register, Walworth Co Horticulture \$1500
  - Work with a Boy Scouts Eagle Scout project to build an informational kiosk at the community garden site that Extension uses for educational programming in vegetable production, hands-on learning and for service projects.
- Mindy Habecker, Dane County CNRED \$1200
  - Provide summer programming for Federally Protected Class youth in paddling skills, local culture and natural resource education and hand-on activities of the Yahara waterways.

- Ela Kakde, Lafayette Co CNRED \$4000
  - Use information/communication technologies to promote government transparency in aiding developing the local economy with youth involvement.

Pederson wondered if this grant program can possibly be expanded for innovative grants that are for whole office or multi-county efforts or even cross-district proposals. With these may wish to give a greater amount of funding for these broader partnership grants. May need to reassess how we use past application recipients awards history for granting future awards, specifically if they were part of a team and how much they requested in the past (small versus large amount).

**Decisions on Professional Development Grants:** Jessie Potterton removed her request as she received funding from ESP. The Team then had 8 applicants that came from all program areas and were great opportunities related to current and future programming. Herman made a motion to accept all 8 applicants and fund them for the full amount requested for a total of \$4952.32. The Team unanimously approved motion seconded by Cunningham and the motion. The following professional development grants were awarded:

- Donna Duerst, Rock Co 4-H Youth Development \$400
  - Attend the North Central Region Urban Extension Conference May 4-7 in Milwaukee, WI
- Mike Maddox, Rock Co Horticulture \$1000
  - Attend the American Horticulture therapy Association annual Conference, Oct 1-3 in Pasadena, CA
- Ela Kakde, Lafayette Co CNRED \$1000
  - Attend the American Planning Association Conference, April 25-29 in Minneapolis, MN
- Patti Herman, Columbia Family Living \$173.32
  - Attend the Pathways to Financial Success Conference, Jun 17-18 in Stevens Point, WI
- Jenny Wehmeier, Walworth Co Family Living \$1000
  - Attend the Childhood Obesity Conference, June 9-12 in Los Angeles, CA
- Lesly Scott, Dane Co 4-H Youth Development \$750
  - Attend the North Central Region Urban Extension Conference May 4-7 in Milwaukee, WI
- Camie Andrews, Dane Co WI Nutrition Ed \$129
  - Attend the Changing the Conversation Workshop sponsored by Field to Plate Feb 26 in Madison, WI
- Jeff Hoffman, Dodge Co CNRED \$500
  - Enroll in an on-line course through University of North Carolina-Greensboro titled Dispute System Design

**State Budget Update and Ramifications for SDRMT:** Don't know the budget details yet. Pederson thinks that we will be able to manage the cuts without severe measures.

Plan will be to deal with the cut when Pederson is given an amount. Will investigate how cut can be done without losing positions. May wish to expand the team for this process if needed. Basin Educators had the water division money (WIDNR) totally cut in the governor's budget. Think that the forestry portion might be cut by 10%. No new news. Are looking at Federal Stimulus or other Federal sources of money for the water educators. This has some promise because are working in this area and have partnerships for this. WIDNR is also looking at this funding source. Have not sat down as a full basin team since the initial announcement to look at the ramifications of this cut and its current status. The three southern district educators are the senior educators for the program. Three of the 15 basin educators are interviewing for other jobs. All are in different financial positions such as some single householders and various hiring tenure with UW. In the UW System there is the Regent's Teaching Excellence Award, Compton wrote up a 15-page application for the Wisconsin Basin Educator's Program. This is going on for submission from Extension. Very excited about this possible System award nomination. The notification will be sometime in the summer.

Other state agencies are being hit harder than the university. Counties are really strapped and have already been whittled down. We don't know what this budget is going to mean to the counties and how they will react to these very tight budgets. Pederson's worst concern is counties where they say, "we love you, but cannot afford you." He hoped that they see UW-Extension as a great return on investment. Other states are really hurting in Extension such as IL, OH, and MN. Just be patient and see how things shake out. Do your best work and communicate the value of what you do. We need to just weather this down turn in the economy. Need to uphold a wonderful professional positive can-do attitude and flexibility. Will probably know more about budget next week. Examine the strategic plan, as it will be meshed into the budget.

**Fall All Faculty and Staff Meeting Planning:** The date is tentatively, September 17, 2009. Alliant Energy Center meeting location was fine. Will also look at Monona Terrace, Epic Systems and the Sheraton. Pederson will check into the potential locations. Potential agenda: District celebrations (30 min), State updates Chancellor or Dean presentation on budget and strategic plan (1-2 hours), a JCEP or the North Central Region Urban Conference topic that might merit repetition at this meeting? (Pam Seelman on Communicating Value to Valuable Partners). This would include hearing the viewpoints from a panel of stakeholders and valuable partners. May also desire to include and integrate information from the Political Effectiveness Team that would cover practical tools. Could build the afternoon around these areas and perhaps process some of this information and have interaction and perhaps develop a mini-plan and new tools. Possibly have Ben Marrens, WI Public Radio's discussion on Uni-tasking, focusing and concentration an area or person. Not sure what timeframe might be good for him. Herman will check with him. Extension can cover travel and a reasonable honorarium for Marrens. Perhaps have afternoon with breakouts after lunch with short delivery and interaction. Is there a chance for the Conflict Management team to do something here? Crucial Conversations may have met this need recently. Fall Inservice-planning team: Pederson, Cunningham, and Herman.

**Other Business:** Next meeting will have our new members for the committee and will need to elect officers. Will need someone to send out agenda to get meeting started.

Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 from 9:30-2:30.

Possible agenda items: Election of officers, Status of budget and strategic planning, planning of fall Inservice.

**Adjourned** at 12:30 p.m.