

## **Southern District Resource Management Team**

### **Minutes of April 14, 2008**

Present: Peggy Compton, Dick Pederson, Mindy Habecker, Lee Cunningham, Lesly Scott, Deb Ivey, and Alissa Grenawalt

**Minutes:** Lee Cunningham called the meeting to order at 11:10. The minutes of February 25, 2008 and March 3, 2008 were moved for approval by Ivey and seconded by Grenawalt. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**UW News in the Southern District News:** We are tracking the trend of reorganization of county boards and Extension Committees. We have some changes going on in the district. Will have to create and develop some new strong relations to effectively deal with the changes. Walworth County's Extension Committee got dissolved. Having more county administrators (Dodge County will be having one) and need to find out how to "get on their page". This became apparent at the recent Department Head meeting. Openings are few; we are quite stable in the district. Have interviews May 7, 2008 for Green County CNRED Educator. May be some others coming up soon. Brace yourself on budgets, as they are tight. Currently locally, state, and nationally we are in an economic downturn. In Illinois the state government is drastically cutting the Extension budget that may reduce their Extension program by 450 jobs. County dollars come to them depending on the state money allotted in Illinois. If this downsizing occurs, they will be a great recruiting ground. Pederson has been traveling for the past 6 weeks. With tight budgets, out-of-state travel being restricted, and travel budgets being reduced perhaps we need to strategize how to revitalize ourselves with fewer face-to-face meetings. Perhaps we don't need to meet for District Meetings monthly except in the all-faculty. How do we continue to stay connected? Can we be connected electronically but still visually see one another with new technologies (streaming video). May want to have hubs for gathering with some limited driving (pods).

**Review of Professional Development Grants:** There were 10 submissions requesting a total of \$8190. Cunningham made a motion to approve all the grants for a total of \$8190. Seconded by Compton and unanimously approved. Scott will send out a letter to the applicants regarding the funding decision. Suggestions for future years – substitute #8 in application with the question: have you received funding from the SDRM team in the past 2 years? Yes/No – 5 points as the #6 criteria. Alter #1 criteria to be just 20 points.

### **Review and Discuss Criteria for Evaluating Future Innovative Grant Proposals:**

Incorporate:

- Specific criteria for applications on page length (2 pages or less plus an one budget page with match information), font size (Times Roman 12 point font), and margins (1") so that all are on a similar informational level
- Only award points once for provide match dollars and in-kind services as separate items in the budget and support section

- Have you received funding from the Innovative Grant Program in the past 2 years? Yes/No – 5 points if no.
- Is this building a long-term project or it will be used over the long term? Is it sustainable? – 5 points.
- Incorporate into the introduction paragraph the following language: The review committee may consider geographic diversity and program area coverage when distributing the grant funds.

**Planning Committee for the Fall 2008 Southern District All Staff Meeting:** May be able to plan this over Wisline with Dick Pederson. The fall meeting will probably not be held in September since Galaxy III is then as are other conferences. The subcommittee will be: Scott, Grenawalt, Compton, and Cunningham. Will meet via Wisline on Monday, May 5, 2008 from 1-2:00 p.m. Possible educational topics: distance technology, team update and cross teamwork, cross-program effort, how stay visible in your county? Look at the findings of the world café to see if there are topics that could be expanded on for topics. May wish to have concurrent sessions again in the afternoon to give people more flexibility. Could have sessions where have community leaders and/or county human service providers telling us what they need for diverse audiences, or have the theme of diversity/cultural competence in its whole spectrum including poverty, multiculturalism for the day's theme. In February 2009 the inservice will have the topic theme of crucial conversations from Purdue University specialists for half the day. Will be combined with another district for this training.

**Discussion of Emerging Issues/Initiatives in the Southern District:** Reviewed a list of emerging issues that was generated by Southern District colleagues as identified in a survey done in 2005. Extension needs to be able to be at the table for emerging issues. How can we be indispensable for these issues? This would give us stronger support. Do we dance around issues or do we face them? Are we reflective of the populations that we serve? What tools do we have to help serve our diversifying populations? Some other generated issues are: Bio-green, sustainable development, multi-county economic development group THRIVE (Greg Wallace). Ivey will review the county's current issue statements and see if any of these create any themes that resonate over multiple counties. Can we use emerging technologies to address issues? Can we have something on best practices for diverse audiences? How else can we use this information? Are we staffed appropriately? What information should go on our website? Blog? Wetpaint? Wiki? Facebook, Intranet site? – We could have conversations on these. Could be a more living document on emerging issues if were constantly kept current and could talk to one another through new technologies. The Latino population is booming, the baby-boomers are retiring, are also emerging issues the latter was not even mentioned on the survey. We need to keep current. We struggle in being nimble, proactive, staying in front of issues and addressing them. We could do better with sharing the programming we do.

**Update of Committee Terms:** Ivey will need a replacement for her last year. This is her last meeting. We will also need replacements for CNRED, WNEP, FLP and a Department Head. Current representatives in these positions should inquire from their colleagues about serving on this committee. The first meeting of the new committee will

be July 29, 2008. Check website for pertinent information to refer to colleagues, although this is not very current.

**Staffing in the District:** If we can hold on to what we have now during these economic times, it will be considered a win. Performance issues will be what harm us in the loss of positions. We are about fully staffed currently. All four program areas are about in every county. Crawford and Vernon will be working on getting nutrition education programs. Lacking agriculture in Lafayette, but does have some buyout from Grant County. Have CNRED vacancies in Rock, Walworth and Vernon. Some discussions are happening on possibility of filling these in Rock and Walworth. We currently have no systematic approach to leverage these positions from Vista and Americorps. These volunteer positions might enhance our programming. Sue Curtis is now working on this issue, on how we may utilize them better. We have not tapped them as well we could and there is no holistic approach. We don't have great mechanisms for getting volunteers or interns. We need to step outside our box of how we currently fund things to grow positions that may be outside the state and county funding. The county where Cornell, NY is has some positions funded by municipalities. This model may help broaden our programming. Don't see growth in the current model at this time of tight budgets, so if we wish to grow, may need to think about other models.

**Update of District Website:** Will carry this item to the next meeting. May wish to invite or talk to Mary Lucus and Terry Kraft and hold our next meeting at the Pyle Center so can better work on this issue. Will dedicate 1.5-2 hours on this issue.

**Other Business:** None except that this committee should have some kind of retreat.

**Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items:** Tuesday, July 29, 2008 from 9:00-3:00 at the Pyle Center. Agenda items: District website, Fall All Staff meeting, Emerging Issues Update

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Submitted by Mindy Habecker