

Western District Resource Management Meeting
Monday, October 6, 2008
Durand, WI

Present: Jim Faust, Cyndy Jacoby, Megan Steussel, Deb Jones, Liz Hilts

Horticulture issues within the Western District. Deb facilitated a meeting with horticulture educators in the district as discussed at the 3/08 DRMT meeting. The major issues that surfaced included:

- Madison is discussing a statewide horticulture approach
- District 800 horticulture hot line funded by DRM funds
- Hort agents feel inadequate due to academic staff title; low salaries, low hours, etc
- Western District has old website dedicated to hort that can be updated; Deb offered the Western District office to assist with keeping this site updated on a temporary basis.
- Discussed thoughts that were contributed by Ag Agents (orange sheet)

District Resource Allocations (updates from 3/08 DRMT meeting):

- Tuition support for Extension Associates: \$1,000 per year (currently there are two Extension Associates. When possible, the district office will try and cover this tuition reimbursement from district budget professional development funds.
- Support for La Crosse Horticulture Position; \$10,000 was sent
- RFP's are out for Marketing Project; \$14,000 carryover from prior year. The allocation made at the 3/08 meeting was not utilized.
- Program area professional development (\$750/program area) - \$3,000
- Remaining funds were used for Innovative Grants-8 applications were received & funded

Current district resource fund balances

- Deb reviewed resource management budget from budget office; these funds will be monitored throughout the year; current balance is approximately \$17,678 in one time dollars; \$7,381 in base. Current base dollars will transfer out of this account at the end of this fiscal year and be applied to the increase in Bob Kazmierski's position from .75 to 100%

2009 Resource Allocation

- Jim Faust made a motion to continue funding the La Crosse County Horticulture position with \$10,000; motion carried 4-0
- The part-time LaCrosse County Horticulture position is the top priority position to be put on base funds when enough funds have been accumulated.
- Pierce County is requesting an increase in Diana Alfuth's appointment from 40% to 50% time. The DRMT previously supported funding for this position if/when the county agrees to increase the percentage of appointment. We could easily cover this increase with one-time funds as needed until enough base funds are accumulated if need be.

Other thoughts/ideas shared during meeting:

- ✓ Americorps/Vista positions
- ✓ A district Innovative Grant Writing Day
- ✓ WACEC members want something that crosses county/state lines such as family seminars and energy seminars
- ✓ Economic development focus is a good angle to promote to county board, etc
- ✓ UWEX is not in a growth phase! What are the priorities? What is the cost to the county for education vs. law enforcement? What can we do to garner more support for our services and resources?
- ✓ Need to market to local level
- ✓ If we are unable to do at the county level, how would we do it at the district & state level?
- ✓ Agent Professional Development (for public or private good?)
- ✓ Are there opportunities to raise funds appropriately that meet the criteria for agents?
- ✓ Are there other local partners that can be funding partners?

Other ideas for upcoming year:

It was suggested to have a district programming focus for the next 2 years. Focus could be energy, local foods, etc (HCE/WNEP both have long-term focus). Something for all staff to work on that would enable our collective efforts across the districts to have a greater impact than individual county efforts.

Bring partners together; use facilitators' skills to bring co-ops, youth, farmers, public, private & government agencies together; District can work together to promote one topic rather than reinventing the wheel. This will give us something to market broadly across the district.

- Deb will contact Pete Kling regarding December Energy District Meeting; this could be used as an opportunity to suggest the idea of a district wide initiative for the upcoming year.

Next Meeting: January 2009 Wisline. The district office will contact members of the DRMT to coordinate meeting dates/times for 2009.