

Western District Teleconference

Monday, June 23, 2008

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

NOTES

Streaming Audio link: <http://www.uwex.edu/ics/stream/event.cfm?eid=11154>

County check-in (please be prepared to share one "tip of the month" from your office...it may be a successful approach to marketing; a new successful program idea; a way your office is trying to "go green"; a challenge you faced that you learned a lesson from...):

- Buffalo – Annie suggested that with these busy times to take the time to reflect and "calm down"
- Chippewa – Working on conserving energy through the use of dimmer switches in all offices
- Jackson – a rain garden is being put in at the Extension Office. The Master Gardeners and Basin Educator are working on the project. It will be a demonstration garden for the county and community.
- LaCrosse – Staff are walking farther to work! ☺ A two-year construction project has started with their facility requiring a longer route to access the office.
- Monroe County – Still dealing with clean-up from the storms. Their office has two VISTA workers joining them this summer.
- Pepin (also related to Buffalo) – Mary has been talking with Rosemary Potter regarding Extension marketing in Buffalo county. She will be giving a presentation to the county board in July. Suggestions from colleagues are welcome.
- Pierce – Come support the 4th "H" in 4-H (health) at the 4-H Foundation Golf Classic this afternoon!
- St. Croix – They are anxious to welcome a new 4-H agent starting on July 1. They also sent an invitation to Chancellor Wilson to attend the St Croix county fair.
- Barron – The Barron County team is having a luncheon with other county agencies to discuss the increase in food prices and the effect on community members.
- Eau Claire – The 4-H program organized "Katy Forsythe" year in recognition of Katy's 20 years as 4-H Youth Development Agent. News article is at http://www.leadertelegram.com/story-news_local.asp?id=BGV8OHI9DMP

Welcome New Colleagues

- Sara Medick – Clark County 4-H Youth Development. Sarah recently received her Masters' degree from UW-RF. She worked with Frank Ginther this past year as the 4-H Assistant, and with Connie Creighton in Portage County last summer as a summer intern.
- Erin LaFaive – Eau Claire County Horticulture. Erin recently relocated to Eau Claire from Madison where she completed her Masters' degree and worked for the Nature Conservancy.
- Daniel Zerr – Lower Chippewa River Basin Educator
- Marie Witzel – St Croix County 4-H (beginning on July 1)
- Other introductions? (Support staff, long-term VISTA, etc). Welcome back to Kelsey Woolover, returning for her second summer as the summer intern in Chippewa County!

Community Partner Advisory Groups (15 minutes) – Kathleen Haas, CPAG Liaison

- The Dean's office is continuing support for CPAG, through a 20% liaison position and continued funding for counties with CPAGs.
- CPAGs bring citizens within a community to learn more about the depth and breadth of Extension
- There are many ways that counties can use a CPAG including:
 - Meeting with them once per year to do programming updates and program planning
 - On-going meeting 4-5 times per year. Work with issues identification; relevancy of current work, new issues and how we might address them; helping the office with outreach and increasing visibility
 - Begin CPAGs or connect current CPAGs with visioning sessions for new staff; civil rights
 - Involve CPAG members in programming
- The western district has some funds in addition to the dean's office funding to support CPAG programs.

- Kathleen is looking for volunteers to participate in a short-term design team to develop a Zoomerang survey to gather information about what CPAG has done and what is needed to make CPAG a regular part of our work.
- It will be important to incorporate CPAG into on-going work that we do...district meetings; WACEC; dean's WisLine; etc
- CPAG is a good strategic tool during these times of county board downsizing and county budget pressures.
- Kathleen is here to help! Feel free to call on her for assistance.

Innovative Grant Reports:

- "Lunch and Learn": Luane Meyer
 - The program evolved out of a staff retreat and work with their CPAG. CPAG came up with the slogan, "Got a question? Ask Extension!" This is the theme used to advertise the Lunch 'n Learn sessions. It is also being printed on magnets and mousepads. Session topics have come from CPAG and a Zoomerang survey of county employees. Food samples are sometimes served when appropriate (for instance, using the Farm Fresh Atlas and serving locally grown food). Sessions are held in a courthouse meeting room. A future goal is involving youth in teaching at least one of the sessions.
- "Positive Parenting of Teens": Joan Sprain
 - Joan shared the "Then and Now" activity from the program. Positive Parenting of Teens is a research based program (content is based on best practice) focused on helping parents provide basic needs, create trust, communicate effectively, deal with conflict, and do things together with their teen. One of the goals for the program was to get people interested in parenting in hopes of building interest in the Strengthening Families program. Joan conducted a ½ day training for two school districts and provided curriculums, DVDs, etc on parenting styles. Both districts are now planning to do Strengthening Families, so the Positive Parenting program met this goal. This year a parenting resource web site is being developed.

WACEC Updates:

- District 5 report from state conference
 - Will be scheduling two district meetings next year
 - Considering a regional approach to some issues of concern across the district
 - Executive committee will meet in August to begin plans
- 2009 State WACEC conference
 - The week of June 14-19 probably in LaCrosse (dates and location are still being finalized). Evaluations of the conference indicated a need to stay away from Tuesday evenings due to county board meetings.
 - Once the location is final we will be soliciting people to serve on the planning committee and coordinate the auction.

Announcements:

- Fall all-staff district in-service: Confirmed for Tuesday, September 16 at UW-Stout
- Please read the June Western District Digest at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/dist/western/documents/2008June.pdf> for updates on a number of topics
- Thank you for your work!!

“Of all the attitudes we can acquire, surely the attitude of gratitude is the most important and by far the most life-changing.”

- Zig Ziglar