

**Western District WisLine**  
**Monday, July 27, 2009**  
**9:00-10:00**

Counties Present: Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, Barron, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Eau Claire, Trempealeau

Not Present: Dunn,

### **Leadership Wisconsin: JoAnn Stormer**

Information was presented regarding the Leadership Wisconsin Program formerly known as Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program. This program consists of 11 seminars over a 2 year period, in addition to, regional and national leadership opportunities and a capstone experience. The program is looking for new recruits for its upcoming class. Each class can have up to 35 people. Please contact JoAnn if you are interested in having a local open house or recruitment session. County educator's assistance in promoting the program and nominating people from your communities to participate would be appreciated. JoAnn will be sending out a poster to each county to be posted. Annette Bjorklund, Barron County, spoke about her experiences as a member of Class 11. She is willing to visit further with interested individuals about her experience with the program. Leadership Wisconsin graduates are often active in supporting local county leadership programs, and these local programs can also be "feeders" for LW. For more information, you can access [www.leadershipwisconsin.org](http://www.leadershipwisconsin.org)

### **Governance Reports:**

Mahlon reported that he and Katy are finished with their terms on the Faculty Senate Committee. Mahlon is still serving on the System Wide Extension Council. Mahlon encouraged all to contact their representative if they have concerns.

Jerry reported that he, Bev Phillips and Ja'twain Pinson Campbell all serve on the Academic Staff Council. They have been working on collective bargaining, right to vote and the definition of scholarship. A comment that the "Academic Staff do not do scholarship like Faculty" has prompted discussion in recognition that Academic Staff in Cooperative Extension are strongly engaged in scholarly activity. This committee is also working on Title review and the documents needed for promotion.

Greg Hutchins will join us next month and report on his new position.

### **Furlough Updates:**

#### Responses from County Partners:

Pierce: Greg stated that the furloughs are reducing the budget in a temporary way; he talked to the county administrative coordinator and stressed that this was a "temporary reduction".

Clark: Committee has been very supportive and not thrilled with furlough; committee encouraged staff to apply for retention dollars. Committee is encouraging furniture purchases that are long term in order to keep money in budget

Eau Claire: Extension Committee has been made aware that this reduction is temporary and that the salaries will remain the same; meeting with county administrator on Tuesday to get his input as to how to address this in their department budget

St.Croix: Pete reported that his committee understands that it is a temporary reduction; the state furlough concept has sparked the discussion about the county instituting a voluntary furlough for its employees

Polk: Gail reported that the Judges and District Attorney's Office have different fixed furlough days and that Polk County is considering a 4-day work week.

Deb reminded all that base salaries remain the same as they were on June 30, 2009; our pay is decreasing because of the furloughs. Keep this in mind when working on the budget. In addition, a pay plan increase could be a possibility in July 2011 creating an even greater budget increase at that time.

### **Furlough Q & A:**

Sharon Klawitter, Dan Malacara and Yvonne Horton joined our WisLine.

#### Info shared:

- July 1 implementation date
- Link to new website on the CES homepage under Furlough Implementation
- Locate yourself on each Table under A, B, or C
- 4 fixed days, 4 floating days
- All leave is prorated for part-time employees
- All leave is prorated for those employees on a traditional contract
- Furlough days are taken on days which you are normally scheduled to work
- If you are not normally scheduled to work on a fixed day, you will have to choose a different day. Because fixed dates are already entered in the payroll office, there will need to be communication with payroll that you have changed your furlough date.
- If part-time employees typically only work 6 hours in a day ; you cannot furlough 8 hours on that day
- Part-time employees can flex their work schedule to accommodate furlough
- 8 hour limit on Furlough time in one week
- Reappointment letters on hold

#### **Next WisLine:**

**Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m**