

Western District WisLine
Monday, August 24, 2009
9:00-10:00

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

Not Present: Dunn, Trempealeau

Budget Updates:

La Crosse: Mary stated that the budget had its initial review with a secondary review coming later this week.

Monroe: Karen reported that the budget has been turned in and they are waiting to hear back from Finance. Currently there is one opening in the office and one upcoming vacancy (Community Resource Development Agent and 4-H Youth Development Agent); The committee has approved filing these vacancies when the hiring freeze is lifted

Pepin: Mary reported that the budget is in good shape at this point

Pierce: Greg reported that budget goes to Finance & Personnel committee on September 4 and then to Administration. They have submitted a zero based budget; county deficit is estimated to be about \$145,000

Polk: Gail reported that they have turned in the budget with a 0% increase; Personnel has asked if staff can be cut; county is facing a 3 million dollar shortfall; county voted for 4 day work week which was approved by resolution; this was then denied due to union conflicts. County board held a retreat which focused on creating a list of priorities for cutbacks and centralizing fiscal operations

St. Croix: Budget process is going well; budget submitted had 0% increase; the furlough savings to county was put into other areas of budget so it could be transferred back to salaries at a later date.

Barron: Tim reported that there are currently 3 vacancies at budget time. The current trend in Barron County is to not fill positions when they are open. Tim is hoping to spread the staffing reduction among positions and be creative with future staffing. It is anticipated that their office will not come out with 3 FTE positions as they had prior to the vacancies.

Buffalo: A guideline of a 7% reduction was given and the Extension office hopes to come in fairly close. The proposed budget keeps the furlough savings within the budget so it can be transferred back to salaries at a later date. Staff has been instructed to list every program offered and whether any mandates apply. Deb

suggested sending lists to program area directors for review and suggestions. Deb also suggested contacting Randy in Chippewa County for a copy of his list and/or assistance with the process.

Chippewa: Budget goes to Ag & Extension Committee on September 2 and goes to Finance Dept on Sept 4. County is facing a deficit of 3-3.5 million dollars. All non-mandated programs are being reviewed and UWEX falls into that category. The County Administrator is looking at making cuts and has stated that the budget is “flexible and moving”. Many facts will not be known until budget process is complete.

Clark: Sara reported that budget has passed at Ag & Extension committee level and will go to full county board in September.

Dunn: Deb reported that there are currently 2 vacant positions in Youth Development and Agriculture. The Ag & Extension committee has approved filling both positions.

Eau Claire: Mahlon reported that the budget was submitted last Thursday and upcoming meetings are set for Budget & Finance. Budget submitted had 0 increase including wages. Eau Claire County Board approved 3 ½ days of furlough for 2009 including 10/12, 11/27, 4 hours on 12/24; 12/31.

Jackson: Luane reported that budget is moving forward with a 0% increase for salaries and supplies and expense; they are presenting 2 budgets (1 with furlough savings and 1 without)

Introduction of Assistant Vice Chancellor/Secretary of the Faculty and staff – Greg Hutchins:

Greg shared his background including 15 years with Wisconsin 4-H, 10 years in Minnesota 4-H and Extension experience in Alabama, Kansas, and Nebraska prior to accepting his new position. In this role, he has new exposure to the UW-System and its governance groups including the University Committee and Academic Staff Council. He also discussed how the 2 roles interface and the opportunity of the dual role within the institution that can reinforce the influence of faculty and academic staff, UW-Systems reports and partnerships that occur within the entire UW-System including campuses and Extension work. Upcoming items include:

- ✓ System Wide Extension Council which is meeting on September 9 at UW-La Crosse
- ✓ Academic Staff awards which are now due
- ✓ Human Subjects contact person

Introduction of Employee Assistance Consultant – Patrick DuCharme

Phone: 800-385-8511

www.uwex.edu/eao

Patrick shared a lengthy background including a Master's Degree in Social Work as well as various social work positions in the La Crosse and Madison area including work within the DNR Employee Assistance Program. In addition to the many resources Patrick's office provides, he can also offer assistance to managers and employees with both work-related and personal problems. He can provide training and/or collaboration on the following:

- ✓ Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- ✓ Depression and Mental Health Issues
- ✓ Stress Management Presentations
- ✓ Topics related to the Workplace such as dealing with vacancies, workload demands, furlough stress

He can consult and collaborate with you to help develop joint training for future needs or just tips and suggestions

Governance Reports – Jerry Clark & Mahlon Peterson:

- Academic Staff Council: Work continues on the Title Review process and making it cohesive to all 4 divisions as well as Academic Staff Council Awards; Jerry will clarify the 50% FTE requirement for award eligibility.
- System-wide Extension Council will meet in September at UW-La Crosse and in January at UW-Milwaukee. This includes representatives of the 4 UW-Extension divisions, UW-Colleges, Public Radio & TV.

Furlough:

- Reminder: Requests for exceptions to taking furlough on "fixed" days are due to the District Office by August 31! Links to the guidelines/process and request form are below:
 - ✓ [Guidelines/process](#)
 - ✓ [Request form](#)
- Other furlough issues

Reappointment letters have been mailed. Please ignore the return date as letters were late in getting out. Please just sign and return at your earliest convenience, preferably within one week.

Upcoming Events:

- Next district gathering: Tuesday, September 15, Florian Gardens, Eau Claire. There will be a presentation of district resource management grants in the morning and a presentation of marketing material by Vendi in the afternoon.