

# UNIVERSITY EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Date of Meeting:** July 11, 2016

**Meeting called to order by:** Chair Glen Borland called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Members Present:** Borland, Hartz, Patrick, Zastrow. Klubertanz absent. Hartz excused himself at 9:30 a.m. Wehmeier excused himself at 9:40 a.m. due to another meeting.

**Agents Present:** Eisenmann, Georgson

**Others Present:** Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator

**Certification of Open Meetings Law:** The agenda has been duly posted and the door is open.

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**Roll Call (establish a quorum)**

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**Approval of Agenda for Possible Rearrangement:** None

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**Approval of June 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Motion was made by Hartz and seconded by Patrick that the minutes of the June 13, 2016 meeting be approved. Motion approved: 4-0.

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**Communications:** None

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**Public Comment:** None

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**Item:** Report on WACEC Conference – June 20-21, Wausau, WI

Borland handed out a written report of his attending the WACEC Conference and reviewed it with the committee. Borland encouraged the committee that we need to be proactive in regards to the nEXT Generation. Discussion followed. See attached report.

**Item:** Discussion of Jefferson County potentially hosting Farm Technology Days in 2019

Georgson reported that the informational meeting that was held was a good meeting. He stated that identifying a farm location that has 550 acres of alfalfa is not looking good at this time. Wehmeier stated that Jefferson County Farm Bureau has voted to support Farm Technology Days. There is a lot of enthusiasm among the Farm community but finding a location is proving

to be a challenge. Georgson encouraged committee members to attend the upcoming Farm Technology Days in Walworth County.

**Item: Update, Discussion and Input on the nEXT Generation Model**

This was covered under the WACEC Conference discussion. Wehmeier will reach out to Rock and Walworth County to determine their interest of meeting together.

**Item: Review of 2016 Department Budget** - Georgson reported that we are in good shape.

**Item: Update on Administrative Assistant Position** - Georgson reported that we fortunate to have Katelyn Genz join our team in the office. Katelyn was introduced to the committee.

**Item: Update on the Refilling of the 4-H Youth Development Agent Position**

Wehmeier stated that the position was posted on last Friday. Eisenmann stated that there is interest from at least one internal candidate. Anticipate that the final interviews will be in September 12; the committee meeting will be extended from 8-Noon.

**Item: Update on the Refilling of the CNRED Agent Position**

Wehmeier anticipates this position will be held open until UWEX reconfiguration has been determined. Discussion occurred. Question was asked on how 2017 budget would be handled. Wehmeier stated that they are going to create a contingency for UW-Extension.

**Item: Discussion of Monthly Agent Reports**

All agent monthly reports were sent electronically to the committee prior to the meeting. Review and highlights from their written monthly reports were provided by Eisenmann and Georgson. Discussion occurred.

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**Upcoming Agenda Items and Meeting Dates:**

ICC Committee meeting dealing with topic of nEXT Generation is on July 27, 2016. Borland will attend. If other individuals are interested, they should contact Kim.

Georgson reminded the committee that Steve's retirement celebration is this Friday in Watertown from 4-8 p.m. The next committee meeting will be held on July 11, 2016.

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**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Patrick, seconded by Zastrow, to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 a.m. Motion passes: 3-0.

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Secretary

## SUMMARY OF Next Generation Notes:

Nothing specific in the way of new information – very general comments from State. Probably May/June of 2017 before anything in the way of specifics. 2017 looks to be the transition year. Must be proactive in our county and region to insure our input. Can't wait around and then just "accept" what they give us.

**Financial Landscape** – A "forever" change in funding. Ext. has lost \$ over the past 10 or so years, from 33M to 17M. 15% fewer \$ available after July 1. Less tax money means something has to be done--no choice Grants will be necessary/also fees necessary to maintain extension as we know it. May have to do with less. Will probably be less faculty positions [Jerry Braatz Waukesha Cty Department Head]  
Don't be reactive, be proactive.

**Concerns:** How do we work out the "shared time" of agents? Top heavy with administration. Cannot overwhelm agents. Agent expertise will not "fit" county. Need to influence legislature for more money. [many do not understand what's going on] More technology will need to be involved.

Counties need a dependable "**needs assessment.**" [Jefferson, Rock, and Walworth counties administrators and committees get together to identify common staffing needs and identify differences in needs]

**Build support for extension.** Educate Cty Board and constituents need to be educated as to the seriousness of the situation and "educate" as to what is happening.

### Other:

Technology will need to be used more in nEXT GENERATION activities.

Legislature is uninformed. Must educate them for work on next biennium budget.

Most vacancies will not be filled. Many will possibly leave. Sustainability will be a problem. A county may have a new position in their office.

Counties not always the same – a real problem. Used 18 criteria in putting together regions. Not always ideal.

Need better county representation at workshops etc. Workgroups may have solicit information from our people.

Good Comment: Extension is as valuable as our state technology schools.

**Question:** How much tax money do we put toward our County Extension Program per person in Jefferson County?