

# Wisconsin Extension Committees Update

2019 WCA Annual Conference

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# Goals for Today

- Answer the question of what happened to WACEC
- Answer the question of what is WEXA
- Agree upon a really cool logo for WEXA  
(The Udder Best Committee)???

# PLAN FOR DISSOLUTION OF WACEC

- In September of 2018, following the significant restructuring undertaken by UW-Extension, the Associated County Extension Committees (WACEC) approached the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) to request that WCA assume the administrative responsibilities associated with WACEC that were formerly performed by UW-Extension. Going forward, in an effort to streamline the administration and otherwise reduce the financial burden of administration, Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) has agreed to provide the administrative services and support to meet the needs of the organization.

# Step 1: Send Plan to WACEC

Distribute this Plan and the attached member resolution to the members of WACEC, who are the individual members of the county extension committees. We then need to receive the signed member resolution from at least 80% of the members of WACEC to proceed with this plan.

# COMPLETE!

## Step 2: Create WEXA

Create an unincorporated nonprofit association named Wisconsin Extension Association (WEXA). WEXA will have the same mission as WACEC, but will be organized in a way that avoids the burden of tax return and corporate filings that are required of an entity classified as a IRC 501(c)(3) nonprofit such as WACEC. Chapter 184 of the Wisconsin Statutes allows WEXA to be tax-exempt at both the federal and state level, without the added administrative burden and expense.

(In process)

# Purpose of WEXA

The Association is organized as an unincorporated nonprofit association pursuant to Chapter 184 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The primary nonprofit purpose of the Association is to provide a forum for the consideration of issues affecting the committee of each Wisconsin County Board responsible for oversight and policy related to UW-Extension (commonly referred to as extension committees), including those programs carried out under Section 59.87 (section 59.56, under revised statutes) and Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and other general assistance to such extension committees.

## Purpose (cont.)

- Providing a forum for discussion on issues relating to the relationship between counties and UW-Extension;
- Providing leadership and extension programming;
- Serving as a liaison between the counties and the UW system;
- Providing advice to the state of Wisconsin relevant to UW-Extension programming; and
- Elevating and educating an understanding of extension.

# Members

- The members of WEXA are the counties themselves.
- Individual extension committee members are NOT the members.



# Division into Districts

- Extension Northern Zone
- District 1      Extension Multi County Areas 1, 2, 4
- District 2      Extension Multi County Areas 5, 6, 9
- District 3      Extension Multi County Areas 3, 7, 8
- Extension Southern Zone
- District 4      Extension Multi County Areas 10, 12, 15
- District 5      Extension Multi County Areas 13, 14, 16
- District 6      Extension Multi County Areas 17, 19, 22
- District 7      Extension Single County Areas 11, 18, 20, 21

# District Biennial Meetings

Each district shall hold a biennial meeting before June 30 of each even-numbered year. Such meetings shall include the county board supervisors or county executives duly designated by member counties within each district. ... The purpose of the biennial meeting in each of the districts shall be to discuss matters of mutual interest and to elect Directors of the Association. Each district is entitled to elect two (2) Directors of the Association. Each county member shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all matters coming before a district meeting.

# Directors

- The operations and activities of the Association shall be under the care and management of a Board of Directors consisting of fifteen (15) persons, consisting of two (2) Directors from each of the seven (7) districts and the immediate past President of the Association as an ex-officio Director. All Directors must be a current county board supervisor or county executive in the state of Wisconsin.

# Directors Meetings

- Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors shall meet at least annually, at such time and place as may be fixed by the Board of Directors, for the purpose of setting dues, adopting a budget, and conducting such other business as may come before the Board of Directors.
- Biennial Meeting. The Board of Directors shall hold a biennial meeting between July 1 and July 31 of each even-numbered year, for the purpose of electing officers of the Association, setting dues, adopting a budget and conducting such other business as may come before the Board of Directors.

# Officers

- The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, and Secretary. The initial officers shall be established by resolution of the Board of Directors. The Association will contract with the Wisconsin Counties Association to be the Association's fiscal agent in lieu of naming a Treasurer.

## Step 3: Transfer Funds to WEXA

WACEC will transfer its remaining funds to WEXA. These funds will be restricted for use only in accordance with WACEC's purpose.

## Step 4: WCA as Fiscal Agent

WEXA will contract with WCA for WCA to act as fiscal agent to hold and disburse the funds at the direction of WEXA. WCA will also assist with administration in terms of meeting planning and arrangements, which will result in cost-savings because of WCA's existing relationships.

## Step 5: Dissolve WACEC

File articles of dissolution with the State of Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions to dissolve WACEC. WACEC needs to discontinue in its corporate form so as to avoid continuing obligations under Wisconsin law.



## Step 6: File WACEC Tax Return

File final Form-990 with the IRS and include notification of dissolution. This step is necessary to avoid future nonprofit tax filing requirements and will reduce the administrative burdens associated with the operation of WEXA.

# Questions?

