



Wisconsin Extension Committees Update

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Catherine Neiswender
Assistant Dean North Zone
catherine.neiswender@wisc.edu
(920) 410-9650

Matt Hanson
Assistant Dean South Zones
matt.hanson@wisc.edu
(608) 263-2779

Andy Phillips
Attorney - von Briesen & Roper, S.C.
aphillips@vonbriesen.com
(414) 287-1570



Bold New Look

Same Important Mission



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Our Mission

Extension embodies the **Wisconsin Idea** by partnering to develop and connect the research and educational resources of the University of Wisconsin System with residents and communities to address local, statewide and national issues.



History of Extension at UW

- In 1965 a broader 'super' extension program was created when Cooperative Extension and other Extension units were separated from UW-Madison.
- In 2005, UW Colleges and UW-Extension were consolidated under one Chancellor and a consolidated administrative staff.
- From 2016-2018 Cooperative Extension reorganized in response to budget constraints and to remain nimble and relevant.
- Between July 1, 2018 – July 1, 2019, Cooperative Extension re-joined UW-Madison as part of a general restructuring of UW System and became the Division of Extension of UW-Madison.



We continue...

- to offer **timely access to university research and non-formal educational opportunities** to residents of communities throughout Wisconsin.
- to **have a presence in all 72 of Wisconsin's counties**, on five UW System 4-year campuses **and within three tribal nations**.
- to develop programs **tailored to community needs**.
- to **leverage funding from federal, state and county sources**.



We continue...

- strive for and build **consistencies** for counties
 - County Contract language hasn't changed this year
 - Fee structure was streamlined to provide a uniform fee across position types
 - The \$10,000 discount was continued for one more year
 - Area Extension Directors are finding their rhythm and engaging with learning from counties on a regular basis



We continue...

- to fill the last of the **Program Manager positions**. **These positions provide direct programmatic content support to educators** in the field.



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Future areas of attention

- We understand county budgets are already stretched thin. The same is true with our state and federal partners.
- Extension will explore building a cost index factor into the county contracts to account for increase costs associated with pay-plans, promotions, costs of doing business, etc.
- We will continue to refine and make adjustments as we learn from shared county educator experiences. (Travel costs, time, etc.)
- Rebranding efforts are underway (logos, websites, signage, etc.)



Extension has new opportunities

- UW Madison and Extension strengthen each other through exchanging experience and research statewide.
- We will continue to leverage our relationships across Campus and across communities.
- We've already hit the ground running with Chancellor sponsored topic events, bringing together experts and community partners to collaborate on new ideas for research and resources on opioid addiction and water quality.



Extension has new opportunities

- In October we will offer a third program titled: ***Exploring Education Disparities in the State of Wisconsin.*** We are further catalyzing opportunities for engaged scholarship between UW–Madison and Extension.
- This program will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2019



Other Benefits of the UW-Madison Partnership

- Research will be strengthened on campus through broader input and engagement through counties.
- We have educators on the ground across the state connecting the work in UW labs to real-world applications on Wisconsin farms and in Wisconsin communities.
- It will help foster new collaborations and more joint projects to address issues facing our state.
- The UW-Madison team will now advocate for Extension with state and federal legislators and our alumni network can help support the Extension organization as a prime example of the Wisconsin Idea.



Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees (WACEC) Update



Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees (WACEC) Update

- In the past, Extension staff and educators have provided significant support for WACEC including planning and staffing meetings, taking notes, filing financial paperwork, assisting with strategic planning, hosting a WACEC website and many other tasks.
- Additionally, Extension colleagues were requested to provide significant administrative support to WACEC's biannual conference, annual silent auction and other tasks that took colleagues away from the core educational work of Extension.



Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees (WACEC) Update

- As part of the UW-Madison transition, review of the policy showed that this arrangement needed to end because state and UW Board of Regent policies do not allow UW employees to support independent 501(c)3 organizations in that manner.
- Dean Karl Martin and Executive Director Mark O'Connell Wisconsin Counties Association, agreed that the WCA was able and willing to provide the administrative support that the WACEC organization needs.



Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees (WACEC) Update

- In September 2018 during the La Crosse WCA conference, WCA officially began working with WACEC to staff their board meetings and assist the organization with next steps.
- All parties agree this is a beneficial solution, although it will take some time and effort to normalize this new process.



Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees (WACEC) Update

- IMPORTANT - Extension continues to be committed to providing content support during WACEC events. This could include: presenting at conferences, providing educational curriculum as do for other organizations, supporting the organization's growth with our content knowledge and expertise.
- WCA will assist with planning conferences, handling registration for conferences, etc.



Transition to WCA and updates related to WACEC

Andy Phillips
Attorney - von Briesen & Roper, S.C.



Questions?



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