

MINUTES

April 20, 2010

WALCE Professional Improvement Committee
Hancock, WI

Present: Ed Hernandez, Cyndi Eggers, Al Brandt, Rod Engh, Kelly Maginnis, Mary Jo Gingras, Patty Benedict, Dale Konkol, Terry Lohr, Greg Cleereman

Absent: Marie Graupner, Rod Webb, Keith Marquardt, John Exo, Peter Jopke, Chris Schlutt, Geoff Schramm, Pat Murphy, Dennis Presser

1. Call to Order: Chair Eggers brought the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Hancock Ag Research Station, N3909 County Road V, Hancock, WI.
2. Introductions: Introductions were not necessary.
3. Review and Approval of August 18, 2009 PIC Minutes: Eggers distributed copies of the September 15, 2009 PIC minutes. Motion by Benedict, second by Konkol, to approve the minutes as presented. Minutes approved.
4. Review of 2010 Conference: Eggers distributed a summary of evaluations. There was discussion regarding how to increase the number of evaluations returned – i.e. make announcements throughout the conference, send an email after the conference and allow members to return evaluations via email, give a ticket for turning in evaluation and hold a drawing for a prize. PIC members received positive feedback regarding sessions and the conference overall. Conference attendance for Wednesday and Friday was around 160 and about 190 on Thursday. The tour received good reviews. Some sessions did not use the entire time. When contacting speakers in the future, the length of the session should be made clear. The PIC will make an effort to incorporate the suggestions on the evaluations for session topics. Eggers suggested having area reps do a survey of WALCE members to see what types of sessions/training they would like to have at the conference. A suggestion was made to develop and distribute a spreadsheet with various jobs/projects/duties to see what types of services are provided by individual county LCDs. Hernandez reported membership dues collected exceeded the amount budgeted. He also said there is no need to schedule an Administrative Roundtable session as most issues are discussed at the County Conservationist meetings. He added there is talk about merging WALCE and WLWCA conferences in the future. Hernandez said he was disappointed in the turnout at the business meeting. Discussion took place on how to increase attendance. It was suggested to have the WALCE President stress the importance of participating in the business meeting.
5. Location for 2012 Conference: The 2012 conference is to be held in the Northern Area. Possible locations mentioned were Telemark, Hayward, Ashland, and Superior. Gingras offered to check on facilities. There was discussion on deviating from the rotation if a large enough facility is not available in the Northern Area. Hernandez will bring up the issue at the next WALCE Board meeting. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

6. Scholarship Fund Update: Eggers distributed the 2009-2010 WALCE Scholarship list. There are a couple of reimbursements yet to be paid, awaiting the recipient's reports. The funds were not all used. There was discussion regarding criteria for approval and denial of scholarships. All PIC members should vote on scholarship applications and abstaining is not an option.
7. Cost Saving Ideas for Conference – i.e. Reusing Folders: The PIC agreed it is a good idea to reuse the folders. A box can be set out to collect used folders. It was decided there is no need to include copies of the raffle and door prizes. Information can be emailed to members prior to the conference, posted on the website, and signs posted at the conference. Gingras volunteered to coordinate a silent auction to generate revenue to help offset conference costs.
8. Scholarship Report Guidelines Discussion: The PIC feels scholarship recipients' reports should include the names of sessions attended at conferences/trainings and write a short paragraph description for each. Motion by Cleereman, second by Brandt to clarify the report requirements in the scholarship guidelines. Motion carried.
9. Recruiting New Members: Eggers stated Mary Fagan is retiring, so there will be a vacancy in the Central Area. Eggers will contact Matt Bremer, Adams County, to see if he is interested in being on the PIC.
10. Other Business: None
11. Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2010. The meeting site is to be determined, either Hancock or Wautoma. The Technical Committee will be asked to attend.
12. Adjournment: Motion by Konkol, second by Hernandez to adjourn. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict
PIC Member