

nEXT Generation project

Communication Memo

To: County and tribal officials, community members, and other Cooperative Extension partners

From: *nEXT Generation* project communications committee

Re: UW-Extension *nEXT Generation* project updates

Date: May 20, 2016

This memo provides background, news and general updates on *nEXT Generation* from the [project communications committee](#) responsible for managing project-related communications.

This memo includes information on:

- **Project schedule updates**
- **Upcoming dates for county dialogues**
- **Work group co-chairs announced, members of groups being notified**
- **Project information, questions and comments**

Project schedule updates

Executive sponsors for the *nEXT Generation* project have approved an updated schedule that sets targets for work that will take place over the next year. The schedule remains subject to adjustment, but includes the following:

- All work groups will begin meeting in May or June 2016.
- Work groups will begin delivering assessment and analysis deliverables in late summer through the fall of 2016.
- The project will begin announcing major decisions and changes in the beginning of 2017.
- No job reductions as a result of the *nEXT Generation* project will occur before Feb. 1, 2017.
- Work groups will complete implementation planning tasks by June 2017.

In part, the modified timeline accommodates more opportunities for engagement with county and tribal leaders, community members, and other stakeholders.

Upcoming dates for county dialogues

County board members, county administrators, UW-Extension staff and other local stakeholders have been invited to a number of county/area dialogues with *nEXT Generation* project executive sponsors UW-Extension Provost Aaron Brower; Cooperative Extension Dean and Director Richard M. Klemme; and UW-Extension and UW Colleges Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Steve Wildeck. Cooperative Extension regional directors are helping to organize and facilitate the meetings.

To date, we have scheduled 13 county/area locations through August, including 29 counties and two tribal communities. At these meetings Aaron, Rick and Steve will provide the latest news from the project and discuss the budget challenge and efficiency goals that drive it. They will devote most of the time to hearing partner and stakeholder perspectives about the future of Cooperative Extension.

Dates and times for dialogues scheduled through June include:

- May 23, Crawford, Monroe, Richland and Vernon counties
- May 25, Chippewa County
- May 25, Buffalo County
- May 31, Clark, Portage, Wood and Marathon counties
- June 2, Calumet, Outagamie, Waupaca and Winnebago counties

If you are interested in creating a dialogue with neighboring counties, please send a note to nextgencommunications@ces.uwex.edu.

Work group co-chairs announced, members of groups being notified

Eighteen Cooperative Extension faculty and staff members have agreed to serve as co-chairs of nine work groups, and invitations for members to serve on these groups within the programming, organizational structure and program development categories were sent to colleagues on Monday, May 16. As of May 19, about 75 percent of member contacts have responded and agreed to serve.

When we've heard back from members of these nine groups, and when rosters for the groups are filled, we will announce the membership. We hope we can make these announcements next week.

The executive sponsors continue to review the membership of an additional nine support work groups. As soon as the membership is set, invitations will be emailed to colleagues.

The following work group co-chairs have agreed to serve:

Programming Category:

- **Programming Category Work Group:** Carrie Edgar, Dane County UW-Extension department head and Community Food Systems educator, and Karl Martin, Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development State Program director
 - **Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANRE) Planning Work Group:** Jed Colquhoun, Environmental Resources co-director, and Dave Williams, ANRE Assistant State Program director
 - **Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development Planning Work Group:** Catherine Neiswender, Winnebago County Community Development educator, and Patrick Robinson, Environmental Resources co-director
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- **Family Living Programs Planning Work Group:** Ann Keim, Family Living Programs interim director, and John Pinkart, Oconto County Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program coordinator
- **4-H Youth Development Planning Work Group:** John de Montmollin, Green Lake 4-H Youth Development educator, and Dale Leidheiser, 4-H Youth Development State Program director

Organizational Structure Category:

- **Organizational Structure Category Work Group:** Denise Retzleff, Fond du Lac County UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development educator, and Richard Straub, UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Senior Associate dean
- **County and Tribal Organizational Structure Planning Work Group:** Julie Keown-Bomar, Northwest regional director, and Paul Roback, Washington County UW-Extension co-department head and Community Development educator
- **Statewide Organizational Structure Planning Work Group:** Nancy Brooks, Family Living Programs specialist, and John Shutske, Agriculture and Natural Resources specialist

Program Development Category

- **Program Development Category Work Group:** Larry Jones, Program Development and Evaluation director, and Lori Zierl, Pierce County Family Living educator

The executive sponsors added the chairs for the programming category work group and organizational structure work group to help facilitate and coordinate across the planning work groups in each category.

Project information, questions and comments

Information about the *nEXT Generation* Project is available on the web at <http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/nextgeneration/>. Please send any questions, comments and concerns to nextgencommunications@ces.uwex.edu

Thanks,

nEXT Generation project communications committee
