

**ESP/UWEX International Committee
Meeting Notes
March 19, 2004**

Present: Arlen Albrecht, Mary Crave, Marty Havlovic, Dave Hinds, Karen Early, Aliesha Crowe, John Preissing, and Mark Kopecky.

- 1. Upcoming and Recent Trip Updates:** Arlen Albrecht described a trip coming up this summer to Kenya to work with an overall HIV/Aids and community development project. It is being run in conjunction with Marquette University and UW Stevens Point. He was invited by UW Stevens Point. Karen Early mentioned that she has several connections with people and church groups that have worked extensively in Kenya. She will try to link up this Wisconsin project and these other organizations that have worked in Kenya. Arlen will share addresses with Karen of the key contact at UW Stevens Point.
- 2. Report on Team Evaluation Workshop at Waupaca:** Mary Crave was the only person from our international group to attend – two of us had family emergencies as it turned out. Mary agreed to assist the group in developing our evaluation plan either at the Capacity Building Curriculum project conference or in a stand alone meeting that the committee is planning. We hope to have our evaluation plan for the four years in place by September 2004.
- 3. Capacity Building Mini Grant:** JoAnn was not available but Mary and John shared that the conference is planned for late summer or early September. A great keynote speaker is planned. The overall goal is to help our extension service to develop curriculum pieces that will benefit us in our work in Wisconsin. JoAnn and Tom Cadwallader are leading the planning efforts of this conference.
- 4. Study Tour by North Central Regional Extension Leaders to Costa Rica:** John reported that this mini-grant has been postponed because of a small turn out. We plan to promote the program throughout this summer and fall with pre-study program to be held in Madison and a January 2005 study tour.
- 5. JACEP conference and Annual Report:** Our presentation is set for Wednesday April 14, 2004 at 3:30 PM. John cannot be there because he is finishing a graduate class. The program will include Aliesha Crowe providing about 20 minutes on her Masters research preliminary findings, overviews of our two mini-grants (JoAnn Hintz), and international opportunities, including our display (Marty Havlovic). Marty also offered to MC the event. If there is progress on the international skills assessment tool that will be shared. John will produce an outline, materials, and handouts. John will also provide the annual report.
- 6. UWEX and Winrock Connection:** John reported that Arlen Leholm will put in a call on our behalf soon. Arlen Albrecht and Marty Havlovic led a discussion on the extent of our role with Winrock compared to Partners. Whereas Partners is a Wisconsin-based Non-profit Organization where we provide considerable support, Winrock is an international organization based in Arkansas without a specific mandate to work with UWEX. John Preissing observed that UWEX should still consider Winrock as a viable option for our staff to increase their participation, knowledge, and skills in international work. In the end, we probably won't be as

active in promoting this connection, but John, as the International Committee Chair will provide information to potential people. One way is to simply let people know that there are currently 50 opportunities and direct them to the Winrock website.

7. **Goals and Activities:** There has been some activity on some of these items, especially those related to the two mini-grants. Karen Early asked about work being done on each of the goals and stated that she is part of one group which really hasn't completed the tasks that they laid out. John offered that he is committed to checking on the progress of each subcommittee and to set some deadlines or to reexamine our commitment to completing the goals. A summer meeting to check in on all the goals and to work on them was recommended. The group agreed that we should have a stand alone meeting to review our retreat goals and to work on them. John will work to organize this.
8. **Other Issues:**
 - ⌘ Arlen and Marty mentioned that Extension participation with Partners of the Americas has decreased with their loss of the Farmer to Farmer project. This decrease was considered unfortunate and people are urged to consider this group if they still have interest in international connections and work.
 - ⌘ Marty mentioned that volunteers are needed to help renovate the Partners office in Managua. It was purchased by the Wisconsin partnership. All costs would be borne by the individual traveling.
9. **Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting date was set for Friday May 21, 2004 at 11:00 AM. We will cover any recaps from the JACEP conference, updates from the two minigrants, work on the goals and actions, and planning for a retreat update meeting.

Submitted by: John Preissing, Chair.