

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COMMITTEE:           EXTENSION SERVICES**

**DATE:                   APRIL 26, 2007**

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<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>
SUPERVISORS    F. THOMAS	REPRESENTING CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION:
GERAGHTY	WILLIAM M. SCHWERD, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
	LAURA MOORE, BOARD MEMBER
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	HAL PAYNE, COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND
SUPERVISORS    SHEEHAN	FISCAL SERVICES
MERLINO	CHAIRMAN WILLIAM THOMAS
GIRARD	NICOLE LIVINGSTON, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
	CHARLENE DiRESTA, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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Mr. F. Thomas called the meeting of the Extension Services Committee to order at 11:32 a.m. (Please Note: Mr. W. Thomas, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, made a quorum.)

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Chairman Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2006 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Mr. F. Thomas reminded the Committee that Mr. Andrew Sprague, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, retired at the end of 2006. He introduced the Interim Executive Director, William Schwerd from the Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Schwerd, who introduced Laura Moore, Board Member of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Mr. Schwerd said that he was pleased to be at the meeting today.

Mr. Schwerd stated that his role in the Warren County Cornell Cooperative Extension was to be the Interim Executive Director, as well as to develop the 2008 budget with the Board. He continued that he would also be helping to plot the plan for finding a new Executive Director.

Mr. Schwerd advised the Committee that Andrew Sprague had been at Cornell Cooperative Extension for more than thirty years and that the Board had been very comfortable with him in that position. He continued that the Executive Director position would now be supervised by the Board President, as well as a

staff member of Cornell University. He stated that part of the new Executive Director's role would be in the area of Community Resource Development. He continued that both the Board and the staff had evaluated their needs for a future Executive Director. He said that the evaluations of the Board were very similar to those of the staff. Mr. Schwerd commented that Erie County was undergoing a similar process in their search for an Executive Director.

Cornell had developed a job description for the position of Executive Director, Mr. Schwerd stated, and they were preparing to advertise for the position. He continued that Cornell would search for and interview prospective candidates. He said the Search Committee was comprised of two Board members and the Executive Committee of the Board. He apprised that once the Committee had chosen a candidate they would then negotiate a salary and start date. Mr. F. Thomas asked if the process was expected to be completed by September and Mr. Schwerd stated that he thought it was possible.

Mr. Schwerd said that in the interim, Extension was reviewing the past budgeting process. He said he would come to the Committee soon with a "concept budget" to be discussed and negotiated. He apprised this process had been successful in Saratoga County. He added that Cornell Cooperative Extension was fairly conservative with their budget.

Mr. Schwerd stated that there may be funding coming in from the recently passed Common Law 224. He continued that discussions were had with Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward and Senator Elizabeth Little in respect to Common Law 224.

Mr. Schwerd stated that now was a good time to restructure Cornell Cooperative Extension and make it stronger. The staff was willing to make changes, he added.

Mr. Schwerd stated that the best aspect of Extension was that it was a "Grass Roots program", meeting the wants and needs of the County and the Board of Directors. He continued that programs were available for all age groups.

Mr. Schwerd asked Laura Moore, Board Member of Cornell Cooperative Extension, if she had anything she wanted to add. Ms. Moore stated that she was pleased with the way things had been going so far. She said she felt that changes made thus far were going well and that program areas that needed to be strengthened had been.

Mr. Schwerd stated that changes that had been made were a reflection of the

times, not the employees. He continued that when he started with Extension in the 1970's there had been a very weak leadership model, with the Board Members having little or no power. He continued that in the last ten years Cornell had moved to a strong Executive Director model. He stated that the program leaders used to comprise 75% of administration. Mr. Schwerd stated that without community programs there would be no need for Extension. He added that over the weekend there had been a flower show which had been a cooperative effort of Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties.

Mr. F. Thomas stated that he liked the idea that the Executive Director would be more visible within the community. He said that it informed more people that Extension existed and he felt it was a very good direction to take.

Mr. Schwerd stated that Extension was an educational business. He continued that it was a concern in the past that the Executive Director was not visible within the community. He acknowledged that the Cornell Cooperative Extension represented all of Warren County. He added that the Board had approved a new part-time temporary position that would be responsible for the Farmer's Markets, taking soil samples and the Master Gardener Program.

Mr. F. Thomas asked if there were any more questions. Mr. Schwerd asked if it was permissive for him to attend other meetings and was told that he was welcome anytime.

As there was no further business to come before the Extension Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Geraghty and seconded by Chairman Thomas, Mr. F. Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charlene DiResta, Legislative Office Specialist