From Taylor to Walworth, and Eau Claire to Fond du Lac, county Extension committees and staff throughout the state are beginning new advisory groups to strengthen the community-based programs and partnerships in their counties.

In June 2004, at the state WACEC conference, the membership approved the establishment of Community Partner Advisory Groups (CPAGs)

CPAGs will contribute to our effectiveness by providing:

- New opportunities for issue discussions, programs, funding
- A new forum to discuss effectiveness and value of programs
- Entire Extension office team involvement

CPAGs will:

- Reflect diverse voices
- Have regular interaction with Extension Committees
- Interact with UW-Extension staff
- Build local strategies to communicate value.

Supporting CPAGs are Liaisons Kathleen Hass, CRD Agent in Columbia County, Joan Ploetz, WNEP Coordinator/Dept Head in Vilas County, and Deb Jones, 4-H Youth Development Agent/Dept Head in Jackson County.

Central District CPAG Updates

Shawano, Taylor, and Waupaca counties are leading the way in the Central District! The Shawano County staff is working on a diversity matrix to identify potential community members for their CPAG.

Taylor County was the first county to initiate a Community Partner Advisory Group. Their CPAG has met monthly since late spring 2004. The group has 8-10 active participants. In the short time they have been together, the group has already become an active partner with the Extension staff.

The Waupaca County staff has been meeting regularly to plan for the initiation of their CPAG. They are currently developing a matrix of a diverse cross-section of their county to invite to the CPAG table.

Dunn County’s CPAG meets for the first time in January 2005

For more information on CPAGs or to become one of the next counties to form a CPAG contact Deb Jones, CPAG Liaison, 715-284-4257, email: deb-orah.jones@ces.uwex.edu

Central District WACEC, January 2005