



Minutes - July 8, 2026

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid Agriculture & Extension Education Committee to order at 4:35 pm.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bostwick, Cantwell, O'Leary, and Welch.

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Schneider

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brad Meier, Sara Ennocenti, Mike Parille, Brent Sutherland

Others Present: Ryan George

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Welch moved approval of the July 8, 2026 agenda, seconded by Supervisor O'Leary. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes:

June 10, 2026, Ag & Extension Committee Minutes: Supervisor O'Leary moved approval of the June 10, 2026 Ag and Extension minutes, seconded by Supervisor Welch. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Division of Extension::

Review of June Payments: June payments were reviewed.

Program Report: Sara Ennocenti, Health & Well-Being Educator: Sarah Innocenti, Health and Well-Being Educator, presented on mental health programs including the suicide prevention curriculum (QPR), stress coping techniques (WeCOPE), and school wellness initiatives, while also highlighting her work with multiple health coalitions in Rock County. Sara also talked about the StrongBodies Program, a physical activity program for older adults, her school wellness assessments and collaborative county work, the article in Wisconsin Counties Association, and her involvement in various coalitions focused on health and nutrition.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy provided a review of the monthly impact report highlighting the Health & Well-Being presentation at the National Health Outreach Conference, and provided a brief overview of local programming and activities for each of the extension programs across Rock County.

Chrissy also announced an upcoming Rock County Community Needs forum scheduled for August 19th from 9 to 11 AM at DWRC, where community members including farmers and health department representatives will gather to discuss Extension services and identify service gaps.

Fairgrounds::

Friends of the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association Award: Brent Sutherland presented the Friends of the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association Award on behalf of Jill Alf, recognizing the Rock County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee for their support in providing the use of Rock County Fairgrounds at no cost. The award letter explained how the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association uses the facilities to provide educational opportunities and competitive events for junior livestock exhibitors across Wisconsin. The committee agreed to display the plaque in the extension building.

Review of June Payments: June payments were reviewed. Brent explained that the negative numbers represent credits and revenue from Craig Center rentals and communication tower leases. Brent clarified that the tower leases have a 35-year term with auto-renewal every five years. Brent also discussed the county's strategy of working with a consultant when negotiating lease terms. Brent agreed to add tower lease information to the next agenda and provide copies of the leases for the committee to review.

Approval of June Contracts: Supervisor Welch moved approval of the April Contracts, seconded by Supervisor Cantwell.

Brent explained the approval process for the rental contracts, explaining that while June contracts had already passed, the committee still needed to approve the parties involved. Brent reported a recent incident where security measured noise levels at 98 decibels, exceeding the 75 decibel limit, but the situation was resolved when the Sheriff's Department explained to them if they don't turn it down, they will forfeit the party's security deposit fee. Brent noted that the committee increased the security deposit amount from \$100 to \$200 to provide better incentive for parties to maintain proper noise levels.

Brent discussed noise level issues at the Craig Center, explaining how they measured the event sound levels and have implemented various solutions including adding insulation, air conditioning, and security measures for alcohol-related events. They reviewed the rental contract report and explained the meaning of codes like "N/A" which indicate free or waived fees for certain groups like 4H programs and law enforcement.

APPROVED

Review of Yearly Rental History: The conversation ended with a review of rental history dating back to 2018 and discussion of how rentals are primarily marketed through word of mouth rather than advertising.

Review of ADA Bathroom Drawings: Brent presented detailed drawings and cost estimates for a bathroom renovation project, showing plans to demolish and rebuild the existing bathroom facility to meet ADA standards. The total construction cost is estimated at \$344,946 with a 10% contingency, plus project design fees bringing the total project cost to \$433,140.16. Brent expressed concern that the \$150,000 budget approved by the county board may be insufficient for the project.

Fair Board Report: Ryan George, the Fair Board President, reminded everyone this year's fair is only 3 weeks out and encouraged everyone to please come check out the fair. Ryan went on to explain that while the bathroom is heavily used during the fair, the Fair Board cannot justify spending \$100,000-\$200,000 on upgrades since they only use the facility for about 5 days per year. The discussion revealed that the Fair Board currently pays about \$15-20,000 annually for utilities and maintenance, with the Fair Board covering additional costs during their month-long

use of the grounds. The committee agreed to look into whether they could adjust the reimbursement agreement with the Fair Board to address these costs while considering the bathroom upgrade project.

Comments from the Committee: Brent said the the grandstand project will be ready before the fair opens.

Set Next Meeting Date : The committee agreed that the next meeting will be August 12, 2026 at 7:15 pm at the UW Extension office.

Adjournment: Supervisor Welch moved to adjourn at 5:42 pm, seconded by Supervisor Cantwell. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

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