



Minutes - August 12, 2026

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid Agriculture & Extension Education Committee to order at 7:15 pm.

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

Committee Members Absent: none

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brad Meier, Josh Kamps, Brent Sutherland

Others Present: Beth Bondick, Pierson Wheeler

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the August 12, 2026 agenda, seconded by Supervisor O'Leary. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes:

July 8, 2026, Ag & Extension Committee Minutes: Supervisor O'Leary moved approval of the February 12, 2026 Ag and Extension minutes, seconded by Supervisor Cantwell. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Division of Extension::

Review of July Payments: July payments were reviewed.

Program Report: Josh Kamps, Crops & Soils Outreach Specialist: Josh Kamps, introduced himself and presented a comprehensive program report highlighting his work across Jefferson, Rock, and Walworth counties through three main avenues: consultation, educational programs, and on-farm demonstrations or research. His presentation covered pest management (which includes insects, diseases and weeds), soil management (tillage and cover crops strategies), soil fertility, and variety selection, including detailed discussions of crop monitoring through traps for worms and Army Worms, as well as nitrogen rate research trials.

Josh presented on his pest management work in Rock County, covering four main areas: decision-making support, on-farm demonstrations, soil management research, and variety selection guidance. They discussed ongoing research including nitrogen rate studies, pest monitoring using traps for various insects like Black and Western Bean Cutworms, Japanese Beetles and True and Fall Army Worms, and cover crop termination timing trials comparing different termination methods and their impact on weed suppression and soybean yields. The presentation included details about field days and training events, with plans to share any new findings at upcoming meetings and create resources for farmers.

Josh also discussed agricultural technology innovations, including electric and laser weeding systems and robotic weeders, though cost remains a significant barrier for some farmers. They explained that Roundup remains effective on grass weeds but has lost effectiveness on many broadleaf weeds due to resistance development, requiring farmers to use multiple approaches including cover crops and crop rotation. The meeting also covered recent and upcoming events, including those held at the Rock County Farm, such as Josh's field days, the Weed Science team collaboration in June, and a crop scout training.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy Wen, introduced the report, highlighting Josh Kamps' work throughout the county and regionally. Chrissy also pointed out other educator's efforts and events presented in the report, especially the 4-H Summer Camp and Rock County Fair participation. Chrissy also offered an invitation to all committee members to come participate in the upcoming Extension Community Forum scheduled for the following Wednesday from 9 to noon at the DWRC.

Drainage Board:

Discussion and Possible Action on Drainage Board Vacancies: Supervisor Bostwick provided an overview of drainage districts in Rock County and explained the process for filling vacancies on the drainage board. Currently, the board has three members with two spots needing to be filled immediately, due to expired terms, to maintain a quorum, and two additional spots to reach full strength. Rich has begun contacting potential candidates, including Mike Moore, who agreed to re-up, while Stan Vielhuber and Nate Woodman have not been reached yet. The committee will continue seeking applicants before making recommendations to Judge Kuglitsch for appointments, with Supervisor Bostwick planning to create a simplified presentation about drainage districts for the next meeting.

Fairgrounds::

Review of July Payments: Brent Sutherland introduced the July payments, highlighting the Aliant Energy and Janesville Water payments and the auction sale of an unsafe flatbed truck, which has been replaced by a used flatbed truck purchased from the DPW.

Review of Yearly Total Contract Numbers: The report was reviewed.

Request to Amend the Fair Board Contract: The committee discussed a request to amend the fair board contract, specifically regarding utility reimbursements during the fair. Currently, the fair board pays for utilities and has historically reimbursed approximately \$8,000 annually for specific fair-related facilities maintenance costs. The fair board president, Ryan George, proposed waiving these reimbursable fees since the reimbursable costs have nearly doubled and the fair board pointed out that they are also investing in building renovations. The committee agreed to consider this request and bring it to the next committee agenda for review. Brent promised to prepare highlighted contract language for the next meeting.

Fair Board Report: Beth Burdick, the Fair Board Vice President, shared that during the first three days of the fair, attendance was ahead of last year. Beth added that the overall attendance, however, was significantly lower than the previous year, due to two days of rain on the two most expensive entertainment days, resulting in about 10,000 less in attendance and an estimated \$70,000 loss. Beth said that the Fair Board wouldn't know final numbers on the overall fair costs until November.

Comments from the Committee: None.

Set Next Meeting Date : The committee agreed that the next meeting will be September 9, 2026 at 7:15 pm at the UW Extension office.

Adjournment: Supervisor Welch moved to adjourn at 8:33 pm, seconded by Supervisor O'Leary. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.