



Minutes - March 8, 2022

Call to Order: Chair Rich Bostwick called the Hybrid Virtual Agriculture & Extension Education Committee meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Richard Bostwick, Stephanie Aegerter, Janelle Crary, Genia Stevens, Alan Sweeney

Committee Members Absent: none

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brent Sutherland, Ryan George, Brad Meier

Others Present: Terri Carlson

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Aegerter moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes:

February 9, 2022 Minutes: Supervisor Sweeney moved approval of the February 9, 2022 minutes as presented, second by Supervisor Aegerter. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: none

Division of Extension::

Review of Bills: No bills to review

Vacancies Update:

Regional Dairy Educator: Chrissy updated the committee on the new hire of Alison Pfau as the new Regional Dairy Educator. Alison will start June 5 after completing her Masters Degree in Animal Science at University of Tennessee Knoxville. Alison is from Bogata, Columbia, South America. She has experience with organic farms and dairy farms in northern Colorado. She will work out of the centrally located Jefferson County office to work in Walworth, Rock, Jefferson, Dane and Dodge counties.

Regional Crop Educator: Chrissy updated the committee on the hire of Jordan Schuler as the new Regional Crop Educator. Jordan has a Bachelors Degree in Soil and Land Management and a Masters

Degree in Horticulture with a focus on Alternative Crops. Chrissy thanked Alan Sweeney for his part in the interview process. Jordan will begin April 18 and will work out of the Jefferson office. Chrissy responded to Supervisor Bostwick's inquiry about office space availability and explained that there would be available office space at the Rock County Extension office.

Health and Well-being Educator: Chrissy explained that she had meetings with Angie Flickenger and one of the program institute directors about this position and the focus on health equity, behavioral and mental health. Through Angie's work and experience with schools and getting the schools engaged in what this program can offer, we are working on an outline of the position and will share that with the committee for input and feedback. The group is utilizing feedback from the committee, schools, FoodWise educators and the community to build the foundation and scope of the position outline. Supervisor Sweeney asked if there would be any overlap of services between Human Services and this position. Chrissy explained that she has been in contact with Human Services and the Health Department and this position will provide the education component and will complement those other services.

Semi-Annual Training and Conference Report: Chrissy reported that there wasn't any travel that exceeded the \$1,000 minimum last year.

County Educator Report: Chrissy presented and elaborated on the annual FoodWise 2021 Educator report that highlights the impactful work that the FoodWise group is providing to the county. The second report that Chrissy presented was the County Educators Report. Supervisor Bostwick commented that it would be good, once the Ag Educators come on board, that the educators get introduced to the committee members and Chrissy agreed. Supervisor Sweeney added that he is hearing a lot of questions about the multi-county or regional educator format and that communication will be key to making the community more comfortable with the regional county representation.

Fairgrounds::

Fair Board report: Ryan George acknowledged that March 1 was the 4-H deadline for members to register to be eligible to exhibit at the County Fair. Ryan reported that he is excited and looking forward to publicly releasing the upcoming entertainment this coming Monday morning and expecting the upcoming Fair to be back to as close to a normal, post-Covid, as can be expected.

Review of February Bills: The committee reviewed the bills.

Review of February contracts: The committee reviewed the February contracts.

Committee Approval to waive rental fee for Beef Producers : Supervisor Sweeney moved approval for a waiver of rental fees for the Beef Producers, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. Brent provided a recap of the previous rental fee waiving policy in determining who was allowed to have the rental fees waived and who wasn't. It was difficult to determine. He described that most recently, the committee created a policy that stated if you're covered under 4-H insurance or if you're related, or, for the

unknowns, there was a clause put into the policy, where if it's approved by the committee, then the rental fees are waived. Brent explained that this is one of the unknowns. He continued to explain that he felt this was warranted to be considered by the committee to waive the fees. They aren't part of 4-H, but they support the 4-H program with much of their efforts. Brent then asked the committee to consider a blanket waiver, so that the Beef Producers programs would get a blanket waiver and would not have to bring every program or event back to the committee for approval each time. Supervisor Sweeney added that he felt much of the programming that they do is for education. Supervisor Sweeney moved for a blanket waiver of rental fees for the Beef Producers, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. Supervisor Bostwick asked for clarification that this motion was for just one event or all events. Brent clarified that the motion was for rental fees to be waived for the Beef Producers and he preferred this to be written as a blanket policy. Supervisor Aegerter asked if the Beef Producers would ever have events that are not educational in nature, like social events or fundraisers in nature. Ryan George responded that most events are educational and the other events are fundraisers that facilitate the educational events. Brent added that the committee created a similar policy for the FFA. Terri Carlson asked if we would still enforce the insurance for these events since they are not on the 4-H Group insurance. Brent responded that yes, they would be providing their own insurance. Chair Bostwick said we have a motion and a second to approve waiving rental fees for the Beef Producers events going forward. ADOPTED

Annual Rental Summary: Brent presented the rental summary report. Adding that, the off-season rental numbers for 2022 are down but coming up in March and added, we already have \$13,500 booked for 2023 and look to rebound.

Fueling station building- Fire code violation: Brent shared that at the last meeting, he said that every fire inspection violation that was noted, would be easy to fix. The fueling station building violation states that the building has to be non-combustable. To meet this requirement, there will be more work than originally expected. Brent is trying to get approval to have fire-proofing spray applied to the entire inside of the structure to make the fueling station building compliant. The Fire Inspector is giving Brent more time to comply and expects to get this resolved by Fair time.

Comments from the Committee: Genia Stevens provided an overview of the Jumpstart Eccelerator Pitch Event which happens March 9, 2022 at the Beloit Public Library. The program is designed to accelerate the lifecycle of Black-owned businesses located in the Rock County area.

Adjournment: Supervisor Aegerter moved to adjourn at 5:40 p.m, second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of the person who took the minutes: Brad Meier

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