



## **Minutes - June 8, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Chair Rich Bostwick called the Hybrid Virtual Agriculture & Extension Education Committee meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

**Committee Members Present:** Supervisors Richard Bostwick, Debi Towns, Alan Sweeney

**Committee Members Absent:** Supervisors Janelle Crary, Genia Stevens

**Staff Members Present:** Chrissy Wen, Erin Conway, Brad Meier, Ryan George

**Others Present:** None

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

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**May 11, 2022 Ag and Ext Minutes:** Supervisor Sweeney moved approval of the May 11, 2022 minutes as presented, second by Supervisor Towns. ADOPTED.

**Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:** Supervisor Sweeney mentioned that Dr. Rodrigo Werle and staff are hosting a Weed Science program that includes soybean and crop education, a crop field tour followed by a Brat lunch on June 16 at 10am. Supervisor Towns mentioned the Focus on Ag invite to all the County Board members for Wednesday, June 22 at Larson Farms.

### **Division of Extension::**

**Review of Bills:** Reviewed and approved.

**Introduction to Extension - Chrissy Wen, Area Director:** Chrissy provided an overview of the Extension's mission, purpose and focus towards supporting Rock County community through the Extension's 7 institutions. She explained that in addition to the immediate Rock County office staff of educators and hands-on programming, the connection with UW-Madison means greater reach, information and resources for the Rock County community. Chrissy went on to explain that the office would be hiring a new Health & Well-Being educator soon. As with Extension offices throughout the state, many Extension institutions are directly supported by local educators and local programming, while the other institutes are supported through a collaboration of regional and state educators, specialists and state-wide programming. Chrissy provided a breakdown of the county annual contract and funding as well as the breakdown of the value of programming and support that are provided to

the county outside of the contract. Chrissy also explained that the Federal funding provided by grants for the FoodWise program is allocated to each county through a state-wide distribution.

**Program Report - Erin Conway, Positive Youth Development Educator:** Erin outlined and detailed her work and efforts in Rock County and how valuable the state-wide programming, access to Specialist Education resources, collaboration opportunities and support is to Community Youth Development programming success. She also explained how valuable her cross-institute collaboration is with the State Natural Resources group and Health & Well-Being on mental health. She's looking forward to her involvement in the Sexual Violence and Prevention Coalition (JM4C) and First Order of Justice Summit working with the partners that are involved in those efforts. Erin also walked the committee through the website content she's developed along with the data and reports from the research and focus group work that she did in 2019-2020 that still provides invaluable information towards providing insight into and for the work and programming she's doing today. Erin also highlighted some of her involvement and connections with after-high school programming like STEM and Economic Pathways as well as Juntos and NIA and state grants that support this programming. Erin then reviewed her Equity and Social Justice involvement and efforts with youth and adults. Lastly, Erin highlighted the website content, written in Spanish, that mirrors the English content and has been intentionally developed for the Latino audience.

**Rock County Report:** Chrissy introduced and walked through the May 2022 County Report of programming impacts and activity highlights.

### **Fairgrounds::**

**Fair board report:** Ryan George provided an update on the overall Fair youth participation and vendor commitments and reported that the number of youth and the number of Fair entries are up from recent years. They've added some adult and non-4-H entries this year and are looking forward to a good year.

**Tree Donation- in Memory of Allison Funk:** Brent explained that he was approached about the idea of having a tree donated to the Fairgrounds campus. The tree will be donated by Bob Arndt in memory of Allison Funk. A location has been determined that will not interfere with the Master Plan for the Fairgrounds. It was mentioned that a lot of trees have had to be removed from the grounds recently due to age, damage or disease and have not been replaced. The committee agreed that this would be a good idea and Supervisor Bostwick suggested that the community should be encouraged to donate additional trees to the grounds and offered that the Janesville Urban Forest Alliance would be happy to offer recommendations for the types of trees to consider and help with optimal location and care advice.

**Update on the water line replacement :** Brent provided an update on the water line replacement project. The time to get the engineering drawings, bids and necessary approvals through the process has taken some time but Brent expects to be able to have the project completed by Fair time. He also explained that there will be additional shut-off valves integrated into the new waterline system to ease future repairs and this project is expected to cost \$10,000 under the initial budget estimate.

**May Bills:** Bills were reviewed.

**May contracts:** Contracts were reviewed. Brent provided clarification for a couple of entries for a wedding and a birthday rental.

**Yearly Contract Summary :** Yearly contracts were reviewed.

**Comments from the Committee:** No comments.

**Adjournment:** Supervisor Sweeney moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m, seconded by Supervisor Towns. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of the person who took the minutes: Brad Meier

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