



Minutes - September 14, 2022

Call to Order: Chair Rich Bostwick called the Hybrid Virtual Agriculture & Extension Education meeting to order at 7:15pm.

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

Committee Members Absent: Janelle Crary

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

Others Present: none

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the agenda of September 14, 2022 as presented, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes:

August 10, 2022 Ag and Ext Ed Minutes: Supervisor Sweeney moved approval of the August 10, 2022 minutes as presented, seconded by Supervisor Towns. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None

Division of Extension::

Review of Bills: Reviewed and approved.

Program Report - Julie Hill, Regional Horticulture Educator: Julie provided a number of recent, current and future program highlights of the county and state Horticulture programming efforts. She's been answering lots of questions from the community about why trees are declining, jumping worms, tomato diseases, and issues with lilac trees. Julie's been involved in organizing a team of Horticulture educators from around the state that has been offering 30 minute mini-webinars based upon timely horticulture topics like fall yard cleanup, bringing plants inside, fall insects, etc. All webinars are recorded and available at the Horticulture website. Future webinars coming up in October include topics such as preparing landscapes for winter, and how to care for the holiday houseplants. The webinars are expected to continue year-round, keeping the topics seasonally relevant. To date, the program has reached about 3700 people around the state. They've organized a new work group that includes colleagues from around the state along with community development partners to develop programming focused on community gardening and gardeners. The community gardening promotional

efforts will be offered in multiple languages. Julie provide some details about the Welty Environmental Center Interactive Climate Change Exhibit in Beloit titled Real People, Real Climate, Real Changes. Julie will be the keynote speaker on Gardening and Climate change at the October 23 event for the Center.

Monthly Educator Impact Report: Chrissy introduced and walked through the August 2022 County Report of programming impacts and activity highlights along with the Ag Report as provided by Regional Crops & Soils Educator Jordan Schuler.

Discussion and Possible Action of 2023 Extension Contract: Chrissy walked through the changes and new additions in the 2023 Extension Contract with Rock County to provide an introduction to the contract and allow the committee to ask any questions before voting for approval. The committee decided to continue the discussion at the October meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action on Drainage Board Vacancies: Supervisor Bostwick and Sweeney provided an overview of the Drainage Board Committee and Ag & Extension Committee's responsibility as part of the appointment process to provide potential candidates for the Circuit Court Judge to appoint committee members for the current committee vacancies. Currently, all 5 Drainage Board Committee members need to be appointed. Supervisor Bostwick explained that the first step would be to advertise for the position with local township clerks. He also encouraged the committee to reach out to appropriate community groups and people for additional recruitment efforts. The AAE Committee will vet all applicants and forward any suitable candidates to the Circuit Court Judge. The committee agreed to begin the recruitment efforts immediately. This item will be on the AAE agenda until the spots are filled.

Fairgrounds::

Review of August Payments: August bills and payments were reviewed.

Review of Contracts: August contracts and contracts to date were reviewed.

Fair Board report: Ryan George provided highlights from the recent, successful 2022 4-H Rock County Fair. Highlights include this year's attendance was the highest in 10 years and Friday was in the top 5 attended fair days all-time. Not all the bills were in and Ryan noted the fair would make a profit because of this year's efforts, despite the increase in several expenses. Ryan provided some insight into which expenses were especially challenging this year, such as increased costs for the new stage lighting contractor, garbage removal, fair staff wages and the fair entertainment - all contributed to higher expenses for the 2022 fair. Next year's Fair will be July 25-30, 2023.

Comments from the Committee: none

Adjournment: Supervisor Towns moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m, seconded by Supervisor Stevens. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of the person who took the minutes: Brad Meier

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.