



Minutes - October 12, 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, Janelle Crary, Alan Sweeney

Committee Members Absent: Genia Stevens

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brent Sutherland, Jordan Schuler, Brad Meier, Ryan George, Terri Carlson

Others Present: Sheryl Hengeveld, Michael Zoril, Victor Clamper, April Whitledge, Nocole Miller-Speich

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

Approval of Minutes:

September 14, 2022 Ag and Ext Ed Minutes: Supervisor Sweeney moved approval of the September 14, 2022 minutes as presented, seconded by Supervisor Crary. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Chrissy Wen announced that there might be a press release coming out that there were several people in the area and one from Rock County that participated in and completed the Wisconsin Global Leadership Academy with Extension.

Division of Extension::

Review of Bills: Bills were reviewed

Program Report - Jordan Schuler, Regional Crops Educator: Jordan Schuler described her collaboration with Alison Pfau and their efforts towards developing some short educational videos with topics based upon needs assessments with the local farmers and the identification of the need to communicate through videos with the Spanish working community. Some topics may be of overlapping content between the Crop and Dairy programming like forage quality. They are currently working through many of the upfront production details to determine the best formats and delivery criteria for the videos. These videos would be in addition to the existing ag topic videos that have been developed by Extension specialists. For example, they are planning to create a soil sampling focussed

video that gets into the why, where and how of soil sampling best practices and benefits. Jordan also continues to put together the bi-monthly newsletter and will make sure the committees' email addresses are on the distribution list. Jordan is considering attending the upcoming Tri Society Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Jordan also shared that she recently hosted an episode of the Cutting Edge podcast focused on Mint. She also described the collaborative efforts for nutrient management programs with the local land conservation department and the nutrient pest management at UW. Supervisor Sweeney asked about winter programming and Jordan explained that she and Alison have been working on program planning for the winter.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy introduced and walked through the September 2022 County Report of programming impacts and activity highlights

Discussion and Possible Action of 2023 Extension Contract: Chrissy reintroduced the UW Extension contract. Supervisor Sweeney motioned to table the discussion and keep the item on the agenda until after the budget meeting, seconded by Supervisor Towns. Adopted

Discussion and Possible Action on Drainage Board Vacancies: Supervisor Bostwick reintroduced the vacancy issue and explained he'd been in contact with county partners to help with the search. He expects to be talking about optional candidates at the next meeting.

Fairgrounds::

Review of September Payments: September payments were reviewed.

Review of Rental Contracts

1. September rentals

2. Year to Date: September and Year to Date Rental Contracts were reviewed.

Request to Waive the Rental Fee for the Holstein Breeders: Supervisor Towns motioned to approve the request to waive the rental fees for the Holstein Breeders, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. Brent explained that this activity supports approximately 350 young people preparing their animals for the Rock County Fair and would include the rental for the dates June 30 - July 2. Wisconsin Holstein does hold event insurance and it will be provided. Adopted.

Approve Craig High school Homecoming Floats on the Grounds the Night before the Oct 13th Parade : Brent explained that the high school group would be using the grounds to stage the floats overnight without incurring rental fees. supervisor Sweeney moved to approve, seconded by Supervisor Crary. Adopted.

General Services Committee 9-27-2022 Action Taken Regarding the Blackhawk Curling Club Lease Agreement : Brent wanted to bring some information about the Blackhawk Curling Club lease and the actions taken by the General Services Committee to this committee. Brent explained the history of the building of the structure in conjunction with the Fair Board and the subsequent building

maintenance arrangements and leasing contracts of the Blackhawk Curling Club building with Rock County. The approval of the leasing contract falls under the Ag & Ext Committee's responsibility. Part of the future negotiations will include a study of actual utilities costs. The committee discussed recent costs and improvements (including recent roof replacement) that were associated with the recent maintenance of the building.

Approval to Increase the Security Deposit for Building Rental: Brent explained that there has been a recent trend for renters to leave the property/grounds to not clean up after themselves and forgo the \$100 security deposit. This puts a significant time strain on the maintenance crew to clean up after these renters and the current security deposit doesn't align with the clean up costs in these situations. The committee agreed to discuss possibly changing the security deposit but wanted to get some data relevant to the clean up efforts and asked Brent to document these rental cleanup situations and keep a record of time needed to provide the clean up afterwards.

Fair Board Report: Ryan George explained that the Fair Board is still working on figuring out how things ended up financially from the recent fair and concurrently working on the budget and trying to book the entertainment for next year's fair. October/November activities include the annual association meeting and elections. Several committee members shared how much they enjoyed the overall success of this year's fair and noted the good crowds and great weather.

Comments from the Committee: Supervisor Sweeney asked Brent if he could provide an update on the solar panel proposal. Brent explained that there currently is a solar array coming to the area next to Rock Haven. There is another community program opportunity with a 21 acre parcel behind Rock Haven, that is currently part of the farm lease. The community program, which has been proposed by Alliant Energy to the county, allows citizens to buy a portion of the community solar array, with an expected return on their investment towards getting a payback realized in reduced costs on their personal energy bill. Brent said he'd be able to provide more information in the near future as he learns more about. This proposal will come to the Ag & Extension Committee for review and approval before going to the General Services Committee.

Adjournment: Supervisor Crary moved to adjourn at 8:25 p.m, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED by acclamation.

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.