



Minutes - April 12, 2023

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

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

Committee Members Absent: none

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

Others Present: none

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Crary moved approval of the agenda of April 12, 2023 as presented, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes:

March 8 2023 Ag and Ext Minutes : Supervisor Sweeney moved approval of the minutes from March 8, 2022, seconded by Supervisor Crary. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: none.

Division of Extension::

Review of Payments: Payments were reviewed.

Program Report: Alison Pfau, Regional Dairy Educator: Alison re-introduced herself to the committee and went on to highlight some of her recent and upcoming efforts. Alison explained that she's been working at developing different farm networks in each of her five counties. Alison continues her relationship building through the participation of agricultural community meetings, farm visits and field plant representative meetings to share with each group what's available to them through Alison and Extension and to learn what their needs and challenges are. She's also been visiting dairy farmers and their Spanish employees throughout the counties on-on-one to identify how she can help them. This collective feedback will help provide additional topics and content for her upcoming video series. She is working with Larsons Acres, in Rock County, to help film the educational videos. Alison expects to have the first video, in English and Spanish, produced by the end of the month. She's also looking forward to sharing through social media in each of the counties and getting feedback to help improve future videos.

Alison is also collaborating with the Cross-program Grazing group, which includes other ag programs, with a common goal of helping current grazers improve grazing management, build soil health, increase the adoption of grazing dairy heifers, and help farmers to start managing grazing activities.

Alison is a member of the Cross-program climate work team. This program group's goal is to identify areas of programming intersection with other ag programs, create programming about important topics like carbon credits, understanding climate science, legal risk, responding to climate change impacts, and practices to reduce climate impacts.

Alison is also working on the development of some short training course videos in collaboration with UW Farm and Industry Short Courses for students and farmers. This course will have a bilingual curriculum made up of topical training on technical dairy production topics. Each training covers the physiology and the practical application. The goal is to get these videos produced and made available towards the end of this or beginning of next year.

Supervisor Bostwick asked that links to the produced videos be shared with the committee members.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy Wen introduced the March County report, highlighting the recent and upcoming local efforts and events from each institute for both county and state-wide Extension activity. Chrissy talked briefly about the upcoming Horticulture webinars and the ongoing FoodWise education programming with the local schools. Chrissy also talked about the current Health & Well-Being efforts as well as the Positive Youth programming through 4-H and with Juntos and NIA. Supervisor Sweeney asked for an update about the Ag Educator position search. Chrissy explained that the position description has been approved by Walworth County and Jefferson County was working through some questions about the position. Supervisor Towns asked about the timeframe for filling the position. Chrissy explained that she expects/hopes to be able to post the position to upcoming grads and get the position filled this summer. Supervisor Bostwick shared that he expects there to be a new StrongBodies class to start up at his church in the near future.

Discussion and Possible Action on Drainage Board Vacancies: Supervisor Bostwick shared that the recruiting efforts and recent pitch to the Town Association Board, with the help of Norm Tadt from the Land Conservation Department, has likely produced two good Drainage Board prospects. Rich added, as a reminder, the current Drainage Board consists of two of the five board members and three board members are needed for quorum. Rich said he'll provide more information about each of the prospects at the next Ag & Extension Education Committee meeting and the committee can consider a motion to approve the candidates at the next meeting.

Fairgrounds::

Review of March Payments: Payments reviewed.

Review of Year End Contracts: Brent shared a report showing the contracts for the last five years along with the contract commitments thus far for 2023 and 2024. Supervisor Stevens asked and Brent confirmed that the numbers on the report show paid and reserved contracts to date for 2023 and 2024.

Approval of March Contracts: Brent explained that the attachment title says December Contracts but the data provided in the report is actually for March Contracts. Supervisor Crary moved approval of the March Contracts as presented, seconded by Supervisor Towns. ADOPTED.

Fairground Grandstand Roof: Brent explained that the resolution to approve the bid proposal for the Grandstand roof replacement went through the General Services committee and will now go to the Board. Brent explained that he wanted to share the bid summary form with this committee and that the original construction goal was to get the roof replaced before the Fair, but per the Start and Completion dates specified by the winning bidder, and the amount of work that's needed, the roof will not be done by Fair time. Brent explained that he will continue to explore grant opportunities to offset the costs. Next steps will be to address the bleachers, isles and handrails. Historical Preservation Commission does have grants for historic restoration of landmarks and he will look into what's required to see if we can meet their requirements. Supervisor Towns asked if the new bleachers would be wood or a recycled material. Brent said he is exploring what options are available and the materials used may be dependent upon any potential grant provisions. Supervisor Crary commented that maybe there are ADA grants available and Brent said he'd continue to seek out grant opportunities.

Fair Board Report: Ryan reported that they continue to move forward with preparations for the fair. He met with Brent, Dave and the maintenance staff at the fairgrounds last week and discussed continued efforts towards getting ready for the fair.

Comments from the Committee: None.

Adjournment: Supervisor Sweeney moved adjournment at 8:10, second by Supervisor Towns. ADOPTED.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

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