



Minutes - May 10, 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, Janelle Crary, Debi Towns

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Genia Stevens

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brent Sutherland, Brad Meier, Ryan George, Shana Leith, Karen Johnson

Others Present: none

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the agenda of May 10, 2023 as presented, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes:

April 12 2023 Ag and Ext Minutes: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the minutes from March 8, 2022, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None

Division of Extension::

Review of Payments: Payments were reviewed.

Program Report: Shana Leith, FoodWise Program Administrator and Karen Johnson, FoodWise Nutrition Educator : Shana Leith introduced herself and Karen Johnson to the committee and shared that the FoodWise team has been busy wrapping up the school programs and preparing what will be a busy summer programming schedule with a lot of community efforts, including some new partnerships and some new collaborative efforts with other departmental institutes such as Horticulture and Health & Well-Being. Shana highlighted the following Beloit and Janesville partners and partner activities: Merrill Community Sharing Garden, Stateline Boys & Girls Club, Janesville YMCA Youth Summer Camp, Merrill Community Center Youth Camp in collaboration with Julie Hill, Beloit School District Summer School program, Caritas and Beloit Housing Authority, Stateline Literacy Council, Project 16:49, HealthNet Collaboration with Second Harvest offering some nutrition classes in Spanish. Shana also announced that Amelia Steen-Martin is the new FoodWise Nutrition

Educator that starts May 24.

Karen Johnson introduced the Around the Table curriculum, which includes hands on cooking, lots of conversation and interactive lessons. Karen then shared how she asks thought provoking questions to the class to build trust with the students. She next walked everyone through a soup bowl breathing exercise, followed by a hands-on "Mindfulness" lesson with the meeting attendees. She stepped through a portion of a lesson, as she would in class, and shared some of the thoughtful, positive feedback she's received from the students about things they learned in class getting in touch with their bodies and their relationship with food.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy Wen introduced the April County report, highlighting the recent and upcoming local efforts and events from each institute for both county and state-wide Extension activities. Chrissy talked briefly about the upcoming summer programming and Horticulture webinars and the ongoing, non-programming community related research and services provided by the Extension office, utilizing the Local Government Education Program of Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry.

Discussion and Possible Action on Drainage Board Vacancies: Supervisor Bostwick shared that the recruiting efforts had produced two Drainage Board prospects. Rich provided background information about each of the prospects. After a brief conversation about each candidate's credentials, supportive comments were shared about the strengths of each candidate. Supervisor Sweeney moved to recommend Ann Remely Hanes and Mike Moore as candidates to be presented to Judge McCrory for appointment consideration, seconded by Supervisor Towns. Adopted.

Fairgrounds::

Discussion on Purchasing Practices: Purchasing practices were discussed amongst the committee members. The committee agreed that the best product at the best price should dictate county purchasing decisions.

Review of April Payments: Payments were reviewed.

Approval of the 2023 Working Agreement with the 4H Fair Board: Brent introduced the agreement that details the arrangement between the Rock County and Rock County 4-H County Fair Association. Brent detailed the changes reflected in the presented agreement vs previous agreements. Brent confirmed that the County Risk Manager has reviewed the agreement and confirmed the Fair Association's insurance coverage is acceptable. The document has also gone through laserfiche and the legal department and is ready for committee consideration. Supervisor Towns motioned to approve the working agreement as it is written, seconded by Supervisor Crary. Approved.

Review of April Contracts: April Contracts were reviewed. Brent shared that he'd received a report about the person that handles the rentals having rude exchanges with renters and potential renters. Brent talked with this person and their supervisor about changing their behavior and representing the Facilities Department in a positive and helpful manner. Brent asked the committee to let him know if they hear anything about anyone receiving poor customer service related to their rental experience.

Review of Yearly Rental Totals: Brent highlighted the yearly total vs previous yearly totals. Yearly rental totals were reviewed.

Partnering with the Fair Board for Grant Opportunities: Brent talked about the collaborative efforts towards working with the Fairboard to identify and take advantage of potential grant opportunities and share those grant opportunities when the grant qualifications appear to fit the other organization best. Brent said he's doing a study and plans to provide a report about how many other county organizations own the fairgrounds vs how many county fair associations own the fairground property.

Fairboard Report: Ryan shared that he appreciates that Brent attended and provided an update on the Fairgrounds master plan at the most recent Fair Board meeting. Otherwise, preparation is going well and is proceeding on plan. They are finalizing contracts, hiring fair staff and everything is coming together.

Comments from the Committee: Supervisor Crary thanked Brent for his extra efforts with the General Services committee.

Adjournment: Supervisor Towns moved adjournment at 8:25, second by Supervisor Crary.
ADOPTED.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

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