



Minutes - December 13, 2023

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid Agriculture & Extension Education Committee to order at 7:15 pm.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bostwick, Sweeney, Stevens, and Towns.

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Crary

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Shana Leith, Brent Sutherland, Brad Meier, Mike Parille

Others Present: Ryan George, Jill Camber-Davidson

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

Approval of Minutes:

November 8 2023 Ag and Ext Minutes: Supervisor Sweeney moved approval of the November 8, 2023 Ag and Extension minutes, second by Supervisor Towns. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Division of Extension::

Review of November Payments: November payments were reviewed.

Program Report: Shana Leith, FoodWise Program Administrator: Shana talked about the recent activities with students at Beloit Learning Academy as well as working with the GED Option #2 students at the new Cunningham Market food pantry. Erin Conway and Shana recently hosted a half-day Safe and Healthy Food Pantries workshop with the food pantry student volunteers. Safe & Healthy Food Pantries project provides pantries with guidance on how to improve the nutritional quality and safety of their food inventories. The students also visited Caritas food pantry in Beloit and got an overview of pantry set-up. The workshop included students writing an example nutrition policy and identified needs/action steps for the Beloit Learning Academy Food Pantry.

Shana also described how they've been working with the Beloit School District with our Harvest of the Month program, a statewide campaign that encourages kids and families to eat more fruits and vegetables. Each month, schools showcase one seasonal, Wisconsin-grown fruit or vegetable and continue to promote Harvest of the Month in the school meals.

Shana went on to talk about the Extension/Rock County Health Department Collaboration - joined by Jill Camber-Davidson, Public Health Supervisor with the Rock County Health Department. Jill explained that Rock County Health Department received Maternal Child Health funds to focus on school wellness that specified partnering with Extension on those efforts. The Beloit School District has been assisted in updating their district wellness policy and the individual school assessments with all the elementary schools in Beloit using the Action for Healthy Kids School Health Index have been completed. Next steps are to look at opportunities for improvement at the school and district level and formulate recommendations for action plans and share with the schools and district wellness committee.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy introduced the monthly impact report, calling out the FoodWise Spotlight. Chrissy went on to highlight the other current activities and program planning for each educator and noted the highlighted Rock County community partners. Chrissy also introduced the idea to the committee to consider adding a Human Development and Relationships Educator to Rock County and referred to the Raising Wisconsin's Children Conference flyer, promoting a free, online conference designed for parents and families. Participants will get practical, positive parenting ideas from experts and explore how to help children grow.

4-H Educator Update: Chrissy thanked Supervisor Bostwick for his help and participation in the interviewing process. Chrissy happily announced that Josh Fergens has accepted the 4-H Educator position and his first day will be January 22.

Fairgrounds::

Review of November Payments: Payments were reviewed. Brent explained that there are two towers and the county receives an annual lease payment for each plus an additional \$900 a month from the larger tower shared savings. He also clarified that the county will work with the Fair Board to collaborate on capital improvements where the Fair Board will cover the costs for improvements that are predominantly fair specific, like wash racks and the milk house.

Review of November Contracts: Brent clarified that the report title should be November, not October. Brent also shared that when two events are going on in separate buildings at the same time, there have been parking challenges. He noted that the parking item on the budget was eliminated this year and pointed out that it will need to be addressed in the future.

Review of Yearly Contracts: Yearly contracts were reviewed. Brent explained that the county does have more contract commitments booked for the upcoming year than has been typical for past years. He also added that the Rodeo event has been booked for 2024.

FFA-Waiver Request: Supervisor Sweeney moved to waive the rental fees for the FFA Youth Judging Contest, seconded by Supervisor Towns. Discussion ensued about allowing the fee waiver as the group supports youth education. MOTION APPROVED.

Request to Waive rental Fee - Release Program: Supervisor Towns moved to waive the rental fees for the Craig High School Release group, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. Discussion ensued. Supervisor Towns moved to amend the original motion to include language that defines the duration of the fee waiving agreement to be waived only during the 2023-2024 school year, there will always be an adult present and that the agreement would need to be reconsidered on an annual basis. AMENDMENT ADOPTED. ORIGINAL MOTION ADOPTED.

Update on Noise with Neighbors: Brent explained that there was another neighborhood resident who had complained about the loud noise on many Saturday nights. A Deputy that responded to the complaint confirmed the noise was not noticeable at one end of the building but very loud at the other end of the building where the band was positioned. Facilities Superintendent Mike Parille explained that in addition to having the bands move to the other end of the building, they plan to replace the metal inside wall with 1.25 inch thick tongue and groove wood panels that, together, should drastically cut down on the noise. After this has been implemented, they'll reevaluate it. Brent also mentioned that he had received suggestions about replacing some of the poorly conditioned fence around the fairgrounds. Perhaps they should consider another type of solid panel fencing to deflect the noise further. Brent explained that he continues to keep in touch with several neighbors and keep them up on what efforts the county is making. Mike also added that every Monday after a weekend there was a complaint regarding the fairgrounds, Mike would receive an email detailing each complaint. This will help keep Facilities aware of any issues on a weekly basis and allow them to remedy any issues promptly.

Update on Changes in Facilities Superintendent Responsible for the Fairgrounds: Brent explained that Facilities had changed the fairgrounds Superintendent responsibility from Dave Froeber to Mike Parille.

Fair Board Report: Ryan George shared that they had their annual meeting and had added some new board members. With the success of the Fair over the past three years, they are looking to invest in some capital equipment to use during the fair. Ryan added he's pleased with the results of the wristband pre-sales and he is looking forward to more successful fairs in the future.

Comments from the Committee: None.

Adjournment: Supervisor Towns moved to adjourn at 8:30 pm, second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.