



Minutes - January 10, 2024

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid Agriculture & Extension Education Committee to order at 7:25 pm.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bostwick and Sweeney.

Committee Members Absent: Supervisors Crary, Stevens, and Towns.

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Josh Kamps, Brent Sutherland, Brad Meier

Others Present: Ryan George, Supervisor Tom Brien

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

Approval of Minutes:

2023-12-13 Minutes AG: Supervisor Sweeney moved approval of the December 10, 2023 Ag and Extension minutes, second by Supervisor Bostwick. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Chrissy shared that she may have an Associate Area Extension Director shadowing her and attending meetings in the future.

Division of Extension::

Review of Payments: December payments were reviewed.

Semi-Annual Report of Training Costs: Chrissy pointed out the agenda packet memo stating that UW Extension has not had any training costs that have exceeded \$1000 from July 1 through December 31, 2023.

Program Report: Josh Kamps, Regional Crops Educator: Josh Kamps greeted the committee and introduced an ongoing project that he's been collaborating on with the Land Conservation Department to identify and manage a highly invasive and competitive pigweed species, palmer amaranth. Josh shared some physical examples of the plant, pointing out the plants' unique, identifiable characteristics for the committee. The goal of the joint project is to educate local growers on identifying and managing this prolific, quick-spreading weed through the use of research-based weed control strategies. Within grain production systems there is a high risk of yield loss due to the development of a palmer amaranth population in farm fields. Josh added that a large female plant could produce up to

1,000,000 seeds and the seeds are easily spread, whether by waterfowl, within harvest equipment, or transported with manure, hay or straw to a field or farm. This weed species has already been identified in Rock County and neighboring counties. These populations often have developed herbicide resistance making accurate identification and integrated pest management important. The best time to control this annual plant is early in its growth cycle, when its weakest, and before it gets established and begins to reproduce. Supervisor Sweeney pointed out that the county will want to share these concerns with the Alliant Energy folks that will be installing and managing the solar panel fields.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy introduced the monthly report, acknowledging the larger volume of reported Ag activities, and added that many other areas of focus are busy working on a lot of planning. Chrissy also pointed out the vendor and participant testimonials included in the report, and noted their kind words of appreciation and support for the Extension educator efforts and programming in the county.

Fairgrounds::

Review of December Payments : Payments were reviewed.

Approval of December Contracts: December's contracts were reviewed. Discussion ensued about proactively sharing the recent county efforts to mitigate the noise issues created by some renters, so the neighbors understand the county is making positive steps towards and continuing to work on improving the situation. Supervisor Brien moved to approve the December Contracts, second by Supervisor Bostwick. APPROVED.

Review of Year-to-Date Contracts: Year-to-date contracts were reviewed.

Fair Board Report: Ryan explained that many of the board have been attending the Wisconsin Association Fair convention, finalizing entertainment and other vendor contracts. The board is currently establishing their committees and will be working on the details for the upcoming fair in the coming months.

Comments from the Committee: None.

Adjournment: Supervisor Brien moved to adjourn at 7:56 pm, second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

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