



Minutes - October 9, 2024

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid Agriculture & Extension Education Committee to order at 7:16 pm.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bostwick, Towns, Ringhand, Schneider and Whitledge.

Committee Members Absent: none

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brad Meier, Julie Hill, Brent Sutherland

Others Present: Josh Smith, Randy Terronez

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Ringhand moved approval of the October 9, 2024 agenda, seconded by Supervisor Schneider. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes:

September 11, 2024 Ag & Extension Committee Minutes

: Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the September 11, 2024 Ag and Extension minutes, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Division of Extension::

Review of September Payments: September payments were reviewed

Program Report: Julie Hill, Horticulture Outreach Specialist

: Julie Hill introduced herself and went on to explain that a good portion of her role as Horticulture Specialist for Rock County is to respond to community questions/concerns about garden related issues ranging from insects to trees to soil and lawn to a wide variety of garden plants. Many times, along with answering their questions, she is able to help people save money while reducing chemical usage. Julie also mentioned the 17 plus educational programming events she'd done in Rock County, including several at the Senior Center and Merrill Community Gardens in Beloit. A partnership with UW Whitewater continuing education and a hands-on pruning workshop event is in the works and coming soon. She also mentioned her state-wide programming webinar series and her intentional efforts to reach more people and make the programs more accessible. She reported on the Rock County Master Gardener program and related service hours. Julie also highlighted the list of upcoming fall programming events in the area and explained that while the majority of the requests she gets are

local, a few of the calls/emails she receives for advice are outside of her regional county responsibility and will redirect them to their local office or educator if possible.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy introduced the monthly report and invited the committee to come join any of the community programming events to witness the Extension efforts first-hand. Chrissy went on to highlight some of the collaborative efforts of the team that brings together 4-H , PYD and FoodWise. Chrissy mentioned that it is 4-H enrollment time and national 4-H week, so we have lots of recruiting efforts going on in 4-H space. She also pointed out Sara's efforts in mental health programming, Alison's Spanish-only efforts towards reaching the Spanish community in the dairy industry and Josh Kamps regional crops and soil programming and work with the Rock County Farm.

Review of 2025 Recommended Budget

: Josh Smith provided an overview of the 2025 recommended budget, citing a couple of minor reductions in the proposed travel and training budgets in consideration of the recent history of expenditures. Chrissy pointed out that we have 4.2 FTE covered by the county contract but wanted to point out the additional 4.0 FTE for our county FoodWise programming is covered through the federal funding so Rock County is actually realizing over 8 FTE through its partnership with Extension.

Fairgrounds::

Review of September payments: Payment were reviewed.

Approval of Alcohol Permits: Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the Alcohol Allowance Permits submitted, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand.

Discussion ensued. Brent explained that there are a total of 6 permit requests up for consideration for upcoming events in 2025.

APPROVED

Approval of September Contracts: Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the September Contracts, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand.

Discussion ensued.

Supervisor Towns moved to postpone the approval of the September Contracts until next meeting, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand.

APPROVED

Review of Year to Date Contracts: Brent introduced the year-to-date contracts and explained that the non-paid contracts have increased since the committee started waiving rental fees and language about the opportunity to waive rental fees was added to the contract.

Rental Fee Waiver Request - Badgerland Girl Scouts: Supervisor Ringhand moved approval of the waiving of rental fees for Badgerland Girl Scouts, seconded by Supervisor Schneider. The committee discussed the merits of the request. APPROVED

Update on Policy and Agreement Spanish Version: Brent shared the spanish version of the Policy

and Contract Agreement document that had been translated by a certified translator.

City of Janesville Noise Ordinance: Brent provided a copy of the Janesville City Ordinance and Rock County Ordinance in the packet for the committee to reference. Brent shared that the Janesville Township Ordinance lists 95 dbL as their noise violation threshold, Rock County and the City of Janesville do not list specific decibels. Discussion ensued. Brent explained that we will continue to monitor the noise decibel meter levels and will provide security personnel with alcohol permits.

Review of the 2025 Facilities Management Fairgrounds Budget Request: Brent explained that although the General Services Committee oversees the Facilities budget, he wanted to explain to this committee how some of the fairground items he wanted to include, but could not include in the 2025 budget, impact the fairgrounds. Supervisor Towns thanked Brent and his team for all they do for the county. Josh Smith added that the 2025 budget did not allow for the county to fund the entire \$20,000 request by the fair board for maintenance and construction projects on the fairgrounds, but the county will provide \$1500 to support the fair efforts as it regularly does each year.

Fair Board Report: No report provided.

Comments from the Committee: None.

Set Next Meeting Date : The committee agreed that the next meeting will be November 13, 2024 at 7:15 pm at the UW Extension office.

Adjournment: Supervisor Ringhand moved to adjourn at 8:27 pm, seconded by Supervisor Schneider.

ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.