



Minutes - November 13, 2024

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

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

Committee Members Absent: none

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brad Meier, Erin Conway, Brent Sutherland

Others Present: John Kelly

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the November 13, 2024 agenda, seconded by Supervisor Schneider. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes:

October 9, 2024 Ag & Extension Committee Minutes

: Supervisor Ringhand moved approval of the October 9, 2024 Ag and Extension minutes, seconded by Supervisor Towns. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: John Kelley, Janesville, WI presented his ongoing concerns about the excessive noise he's experienced since the time he moved into his home, in which his backyard backs up to the Fairgrounds property and behind the Craig Center building. He shared that his biggest complaint is the disruption and noise levels, and specifically the bass volume, of the Hispanic birthday parties and the lack of enforcement of the rental contract quiet hours and noise restrictions. He's called the Janesville County Sheriff many times, and they leave without doing anything about it. John said he's here to share his experience and concerns in hopes of working with the county to fix the noise problem. If the noise issue isn't fixed promptly, he will take Rock County to court. John went on to explain that the security isn't enforcing the contract quiet hours or the noise level restrictions. Supervisor Ringhand added that she could appreciate John's situation as she's had similar experiences. Brent Sutherland went into detail about what the security personnel are contracted to do and went on to add that he'll make sure this issue is included in the next meeting's agenda to discuss possible next steps.

Chrissy Wen shared that she's met with Shane Faulk, a family court commissioner, who's seeking support through Extension for a Parent Educator to provide parenting education within the county to meet the growing needs of the community.

Division of Extension::

Review of October Payments: The October payments were reviewed.

Program Report: Erin Conway, Bilingual Positive Youth Development Outreach Educator: Erin Conway introduced herself and provided specific programming examples. She used these examples to share common roles she plays in the community, including teaching, coaching, and consulting. Erin highlighted the two 4-H groups she works closely with, NIA and Teen Cuisine Coders as well as her role in increasing Positive Youth Development in community organizations such as the Ad Hoc Rock County Youth in Governance Program Exploratory Committee, YWCA Rock County and Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change. Erin encouraged the committee to please reach out to her at any time for clarification or further details.

Monthly Impact Report

: Chrissy introduced herself and provided a brief overview of the monthly report, highlighting the spotlight section that talks about the Youth Development activities. Chrissy also mentioned that the 2024 Horticulture programming is starting to slow down after a very busy Spring, Summer and Fall, but is now booking up her 2025 Rock County programming and continuing to build those events. Chrissy also pointed out the FoodWise and WeCope classes and other Health & Well-Being programming that been going on in Rock County. Chrissy encouraged everyone to reach out to ask any questions about Extensions programming and come join any of the community programming events to witness the Extension efforts first-hand.

Review Budget to Actual Report

: The Extension Budget to Actual report was reviewed. Chrissy clarified that the Extension contracted services are on a calendar year and the second half invoice will be coming out in December.

Discussion and Possible action of 2025 Extension Contract

: Chrissy introduced the draft version of the 2025 Extension county contract for the committee to review prior to sharing the actual contract at the December Committee meeting. Chrissy highlighted a couple key changes or additions, noting the sections about cybersecurity and cyber data breaches language, the educator flat fee costs and the \$10,000 contract discount to the county. Chrissy also pointed out the 5 FTE FoodWise staff here in the Rock County Extension office are not on the contract because they are fully funded outside the county budget, through federal funding.

Fairgrounds::

Review of October Payments: Brent introduced the October payment report. Brent also explained that the Curling Club is now paying all the utilities costs for the Curling building in full.

Approval of October Rental Contracts: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the October Contracts, seconded by Supervisor Schneider. APPROVED
Discussion ensued. Topics included considering adding sound-minimizing fencing, how to keep renters off other areas of the fairgrounds and proof of certificate of liability insurance as part of the contract.

Review of Contract History: Brent introduced the year-to-date contracts. Brent shared that 80% of the rentals have been to Quinceañeras events and why it's important to come up with a way it works for everyone. Discussion included looking at other buildings on the fairgrounds to host events with potential loud music/activities. Brent mentioned that when the air conditioner gets installed in the Craig Center it will help keep the building cool and the renters inside. Brent also pointed out that the Fairgrounds Master Plan does include an upgraded Craig Center building better built for hosting events.

Rental Fee Waiver Request: Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the waiving of rental fees for the Rock County Pork Producers, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand. The committee discussed the merits of the request. APPROVED

Fair Board Report: No report was provided. Supervisor Bostwick commented that it would be good to get a written report submitted for the committee meeting on occasions when there isn't a representative present.

Comments from the Committee: None.

Set Next Meeting Date : The committee agreed that the next meeting will be December 11, 2024 at 7:15 pm at the UW Extension office.

Adjournment: Supervisor Ringhand moved to adjourn at 8:27 pm, seconded by Supervisor Towns. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

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