



Minutes - April 9, 2025

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid Agriculture & Extension Education Committee to order at 7:17 pm.

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

Committee Members Absent: none

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brad Meier, Josh Firgens, Sara Ennocenti, Mike Parille

Others Present: Ryan George

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Ringhand moved approval of the April 9, 2025 agenda, seconded by Supervisor Whitledge. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes:

March 12, 2025 Ag & Extension Committee Minutes

: Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the March 12, 2025 Ag and Extension Minutes, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Chrissy Wen talked about an Extension community development project in the Footville area that the Rock County Extension office is involved in. This project is bringing UW Extension state community development education resources to support Rock County. Chrissy also mentioned a couple of financial education projects in Rock County that bring out-of-county, UW Extension resources into Rock County.

Division of Extension::

Review of March Payments: March payments were reviewed.

Program Report: Josh Firgens, 4-H Program Educator

: Josh Firgens introduced a packet of handouts (see agenda packet handouts) and provided a recap of the overall Rock County 4-H information including: overall member enrollment; notable project participation levels; and club enrollments. Josh also went on to explain how the 4-H program establishes program direction; reviewed the Thriving Survey results and explained how a combination of these metrics provides the direction for overall programming. Josh also talked about the upcoming 4-H activities such as Summer Camp, the Middle School Trip, Summer Academy, Volleyball Tournament and the newly developed Cloverbud Academy. Josh explained that he's working on

putting together a series of Cloverbud activity kits to help the clubs further the learning and educational opportunities for their youngest members. Josh also went on to explain that the 4-H program includes a lot of programming that doesn't have anything to do with animals, farming or agriculture in order to reach a broader audience. These efforts are also supported by the Cloverbud Academy activities, which are open to non-4-H members.

Monthly Impact Report

: Chrissy introduced the monthly impact report, highlighting the NIA programming, horticulture programming, the Field Day with Josh Kamps and FoodWise's ongoing school programming.

Review Budget to Actual Report

: The bi-annual Budget to Actual report was reviewed.

Discussion and possible action - Honorarium for StrongBodies Instructors

: Supervisor Ringhand moved approval to provide an annual \$150 StrongBodies Honorarium per active volunteer StrongBodies instructor from the StrongBodies budget, seconded by Supervisor Whitledge. The committee discussed the merits of the request. APPROVED

Fairgrounds::

Review of March Payments: March Payments were reviewed. Mike Parille explained the plumbing costs were for fixing a known underground water leak.

Approval of March Contracts: Supervisor Whitledge moved approval of the March Contracts, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand. APPROVED

Ag Business Council- Rental Fee Waiver request: Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the waiving of rental fees for AG Business Council / Farm Bureau, seconded by Supervisor Towns. Mike explained that this waiver request is for the second of two original dates requested that was overlooked when the committee approved the original waiver request. The committee discussed the merits of the request. APPROVED

Vertical Consultants LLC.- Tower Leases: Mike explained that this agenda topic is to make this committee aware of the legal council arrangement with Vertical Consultants to provide cell tower lease negotiation advice and consultation services for the county.

Fair Board Report: Ryan George reported that the fair dates for 2025 are July 22-27 and the entertainment was announced last week, and tickets are now on sale. He also shared that the Fair Board is hiring maintenance help for the summer fair season. The Fair board is happy with all the maintenance help from the county and looking forward to seeing the new grandstands. Ryan also said he's going to be presenting to the County Board in June.

Comments from the Committee: No comments from the committee.

Set Next Meeting Date : The committee agreed that the next meeting will be May 14, 2025 at 7:15 pm at the UW Extension office.

Adjournment: Supervisor Whitledge moved to adjourn at 8:10 pm, seconded by Supervisor Towns. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

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