



Minutes - July 9, 2025

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid Agriculture & Extension Education Committee to order at 7:48 pm.

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

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Schneider.

Staff Members Present: Michael Parille, Facilities Superintendent; Andrea Wolf, Administrative Professional III.

Others Present: Ryan George, Chrissy Wen, Julie Hill.

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

Approval of Minutes:

June 11, 2025 Ag & Extension Committee Minutes: Supervisor Whitledge moved to approve June 11, 2025, minutes, second by Supervisor Ringhand. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Division of Extension:

Review of June Payments: The committee reviewed the presented payments.

Program Report: Julie Hill, Horticulture Educator: Julie presented an overview of her role as a horticulture educator serving Rock, Jefferson, and Walworth counties, highlighting her focus on answering gardening questions and delivering programming. She discussed recent activities, including working with 4-H, attending a Frito-Lay employee wellness fair, and collaborating with local libraries and senior centers. Julie also mentioned and passed out flyers for upcoming events and courses, including a presentation on pest management at Rotary Botanical Garden and an online gardening course.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy Wen stated that included in the agenda packet was information on the Foodwise programming and strong body. Chrissy also noted that they have navigators to assist with insurance available for Rock County.

Position vacancy and funding updates: Christine reported that Erin Conway, a Positive Youth Development Educator, resigned at the end of June, creating a vacancy. She also shared that the Food Wise program will lose 2.5 FTE positions due to the elimination of SNAP ED funding, effective September 30, 2025. Christine mentioned that there are potential pathways for funding these positions, and she encouraged the county to reach out if interested. She noted that while this is the only known cut for extension at present, she will keep the committee informed of any further developments.

Fairgrounds:

Review of June Payments: The committee reviewed the presented payments.

Approval of June Contracts: Supervisor Ringhand moved to approve the June contracts, second by Supervisor Whitledge. ADOPTED.

Review of Yearly Contracts: The committee reviewed the yearly contracts.

Fair Board Report: Ryan gave updates on fair preparations, including discussions about air conditioning installation, utility costs, and entertainment scheduling. Ryan explained that a major entertainer cancelled, and they are in last-minute negotiations for a replacement. Ryan also noted the grounds are looking great. Supervisor Towns asked if entries were up. Ryan answered that entries for the fair are up and currently at pre-COVID levels.

Comments from the Committee: Mike Parille explained that Doug, the maintenance staff member at the Fairgrounds, had been doing a great job getting the Fairgrounds ready for the Fair. He discussed the asphalt work and how Doug filled in dirt to make sure there were no trip hazards. Mike also talked about the grandstands and the improvements that will be made, noting that the project would not start until after this year's Fair and would be completed by the end of the year. The question was asked at a previous meeting about seating and Mike stated that due to the widening of the aisles to add a safety railing, and the first row was made handicap accessible, the seating went from 2,047 to 1,857.

Set Next Meeting Date - Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 7:15p:

Adjournment: Supervisor Whitledge moved adjournment at 8:23 PM, second by Supervisor Towns. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Wolf
Administrative Professional III

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.