



Minutes - August 13, 2025

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

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

Committee Members Absent: Supervisors Towns and Schneider

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brad Meier, Sara Ennocenti, Brent Sutherland

Others Present: Supervisor Kevin Stone, Jane Golberg, Public Health Strategist, Rock Co Health Department

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Ringhand moved approval of the August 13, 2025 agenda, seconded by Supervisor Whitledge. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes:

July 9, 2025 Ag & Extension Committee Minutes: Supervisor Whitledge moved approval of the July 9, 2025 Ag and Extension minutes, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Division of Extension:

Review of July Payments

: July payments were reviewed.

Program Report: Sara Ennocenti, Health and Well-Being Educator

: Sara Ennocenti introduced herself and Jane Golberg, Public Health Strategist, from the Rock Co Health Department. Together, Sara and Jane talked about the programs, organizations, and events that Extension (Sara) and the Health Department (Jane) have collaborated on together, along with many other health-related, community partners. Through this collaboration and program exposure, Sara has been introduced to new community organizations and been given opportunities to bring Extension programming to an expanding Rock County community audience. Topics discussed include diabetes prevention and diabetes focus groups; mental health, WeCope program classes, and Suicide prevention courses; StrongBodies; health system connections; Health Equity Alliance of Rock County coalition, which advances health equity throughout the county, and Sara is on the advisory committee; community health assessments; school wellness assessments, the walking school bus program in both

Janesville and Beloit schools; and the Credible Minds program, which has over 450 registered users; and through Extension, the Health Department gained access to the Mental Health First Aid services. Jane also went on to explain that Rock County currently ranks in the high 60's out of 72 counties in overall health. Supervisor Bostwick pointed out that Rock County has been as high as 72 out of 72.

Monthly Impact Report

: Chrissy Wen provided an overview of the monthly Extension report, noting the department staff's recent efforts throughout Rock County, highlighting the Horticulture programming events and the 4-H events and trips that have been going on recently, including 4-H summer camp in Upham Woods, that started yesterday.

Position vacancy and funding updates: Chrissy Wen reminded the committee that Erin Conway had resigned from the Positive Youth Development Educator position and Extension consideration for rehiring that position is in the works. Chrissy added that if Extension decides not to fill the PYD position, the committee has some options for utilizing the 1.0 FTE that is currently in the contract and in the proposed 2026 budget. Chrissy would like the committee to consider using this funding to re-hire a part-time position and/or consider a shared position with another county. Chrissy pointed out there are other needs in the community that Extension could address with this position, including providing parenting education, family financial education and more.

Chrissy went on to re-iterate that SNAP-Ed program funding had been cut from the federal budget. The current federal funding ends September 30, 2025. Layoff notices have been given to two of the five FoodWise staff members directly affected by those cuts. This is a huge loss to the community and the committee is well aware of the positive impact these programs have had on the many community partners, the hundreds of school-aged youth and their families in the county. The EFNEP funding will allow us to continue doing a limited amount of nutrition education to youth and adults. Chrissy pointed out that additional funding will be needed to continue more of the work that has been done in Rock County. Chrissy then asked the committee if the county would be interested in funding an educator, part-time educator or an associate educator, or a position that would be shared and co-funded with another county and to please reach out to her with any feedback.

Fairgrounds::

Review of July Payments: Brent explained that there are entries for capital and supplies costs that are reflective of the recent electrical work to get air conditioning set up in the Craig Center. Brent added that the additional utility cost of running the air conditioning straight for 30 days in the summer months would add about \$700 a month, but it wouldn't need to run it to that extent when it's not being utilized (rented), and setbacks will be put in place to manage the building air conditioning usage during non-rental and evening time. There will also be a shut-off for when the large overhead door is open that will prevent the air from being on during that time. This will also incentivize the renters to keep the doors shut, and help keep the noise contained within the building better.

Approval of July Contracts- No Contracts Grounds Reserved for the Fair: No contracts to review due to the County Fair rental.

Review of Yearly Totals: Yearly rental total were reviewed.

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

Fair Board Report: No report was provided.

Comments from the Committee: None.

Set Next Meeting Date : The committee agreed that the next meeting will be September 10, 2025 at 7:15 pm at the UW Extension office.

Adjournment: Supervisor Whitledge moved to adjourn at 7:53 pm, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.