



## **Minutes - September 10, 2025**

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

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

**Committee Members Absent:** None

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

**Others Present:** Josh Kamps, UW Extension; Chrissy Wen, UW Extension; Ryan George, Fair Board President; Alexander Buroker; James MacNes

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

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**August 13, 2025 Ag & Extension Committee Minutes:** Supervisor Ringhand moved to approve August 13, 2025 minutes, second by Supervisor Schneider. ADOPTED.

### **Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:**

#### **Division of Extension:**

**Review of August Payments:** The committee reviewed the presented payments.

#### **Program Report: Josh Kamps, Crops and Soils Outreach Specialist:**

Josh explained how Rock County Farm provides space for agricultural research. The farm has various plots for research, including those leased out for crop rotation and soil management studies. The discussion focused on cover crops and their role in weed suppression. Josh explained that cover crops can help control weeds by shading the soil and preventing weed seeds from germinating, but timing is crucial. A test field with winter wheat was discussed, where red clover was frost-seeded in March 2024, resulting in effective weed suppression after wheat harvest due to sunlight not reaching the soil. The committee also discussed the use of herbicides to control weeds like giant ragweed, noting that genetically modified crops can withstand certain herbicides without harming the cash crop. Josh mentioned how cover crops can reduce the need for herbicides during the growing season but are needed once they are terminated. Supervisor Towns inquired about the cost-effectiveness of cover

crops, and Josh mentioned how it depends on the farm and situation, and the ongoing research to analyze the yield on future crops.

**Monthly Impact Report:** Chrissy shared in the packet pictures of the 4-H Camp, stating it was a big success. The FoodWise program is winding down their Snap Ed programming due to federal budget cuts, with staff receiving layoff notices on October 1st. Chrissy mentioned that future reports may look different due to this change.

**Position vacancy and funding updates:** Chrissy noted they have a Positive Youth Educator position open, but is waiting on direction from the UW before posting the position. Chrissy presented a new opportunity to fund positions which could potentially be shared with other counties to reduce costs. The committee expressed interest in exploring cost-sharing positions with adjoining counties, particularly for parenting education programs, which was identified as a gap in Rock County services. Supervisor Bostwick voiced concerns about sharing a position, but would be in favor if it was the only option to have the position in Rock County.

**Semi-Annual Report of Training Costs:** Chrissy noted that staff member Sara Enoccenti had attended a training.

**Fairgrounds::**

**Review of August Payments:** The committee reviewed the presented payments.

**Approval of August Contracts:** Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the August Contracts, second by Supervisor Ringhand. ADOPTED.

Lost internet connection at 8:05 PM

**Review of Yearly Contracts Numbers:** The committee reviewed the yearly contract numbers.

**Fair Board Report:** Ryan shared with the committee results from this year's Rock County 4-H Fair, noting they changed the system for counting attendants. Ryan mentioned that one night they had \$12,000 worth of beer sales, and that they were hoping to offset the cost of entertainment with beer sales for the bigger entertainment nights. Supervisor Bostwick asked which act drew the biggest crowds. Ryan stated that Thursday and Saturday were their best nights, noting that if you have the right entertainer during the week, it can draw just as large of a crowd as weekend entertainment.

**Comments from the Committee:** None.

**Set Next Meeting Date - Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 7:15p:**

**Adjournment:** Supervisor Schneider moved adjournment at 8:17 PM, second by Supervisor Ringhand. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wolf  
Administrative Professional III

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.