



Minutes - December 10, 2025

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid Agriculture & Extension Education Committee to order at 7:18 pm.

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

Committee Members Absent: none

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brad Meier, Julie Hill, Josh Firgens, Brent Sutherland

Others Present: Ryan George

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Ringhand moved approval of the December 10, 2025 agenda, seconded by Supervisor Schneider. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes:

November 10, 2025 Ag & Extension Committee Minutes: Supervisor Ringhand moved approval of the November 10, 2025 Ag and Extension minutes, seconded by Supervisor Schneider. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Chrissy Wen explained to the committee that Extension, as part of the 5% overall budget reduction efforts, has consolidated the 21 AED positions and county groups (Areas) down to 19. Nothing changes to the Area Direction, educational programming, or Extension services currently provided to Rock County.

Division of Extension::

Review of November Payments: November payments were reviewed.

Program Report: Julie Hill, Horticulture Educator: Julie Hill introduced herself and the documents she included in the agenda packet. Julie provided an overview of Horticulture activities and programming in 2025 and highlighted the community partner connections as well as the community programming and outreach efforts. Julie also shared Horticulture's upcoming events and programming, already on the books for 2026.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy introduced the monthly Extension Impact Report, highlighting the Horticulture, Dairy, Agriculture, Health & Well-Being, FoodWise, and Youth Development efforts through 4-H. Chrissy also pointed out the Beyond the Contract section of the report that describes some of the state-wide programming made available to the Rock County community through

Extension. Supervisor Towns expressed her appreciation for the Impact Reports and also gave a 'shout-out' to Extensions' Josh Kamps for the helpful notes and information that he provided to Supervisor Towns for a WCLO radio interview on the Ag Matters show. Supervisor Towns said she mentioned on the show how well the county and UW Extension work together.

Discussion and possible action - Positive Youth Educator vacancy: The committee discussed the merits of various position alternatives for the Positive Youth Educator vacancy. Collectively, the committee determined that continuing with the Positive Youth Development position, with some tweaks to the current position's responsibilities, including continued support for the Youth in Governance program, would be best for Rock County. Supervisor Bostwick expressed his support of this Positive Youth Development position, given that it was general enough and supported the Youth in Governance program. Supervisor Ringhand is also in favor of this position with the broader focus and diversity of programming support. Supervisor Towns echoed what had been mentioned and highlighted the importance of the Youth in Governance program support. Supervisor Schneider said she also agreed with the committee's direction on the position with Extension's continued support for the other areas of community need/opportunities. Chrissy Wen thanked the committee for their input, support and involvement during this process.

Fairgrounds::

Review of November Payments: The November payments were reviewed. Brent highlighted the tower lease income.

Approval of November Contracts: Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the November Contracts, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand. APPROVED

Review of Yearly Total Contracts: Brent pointed out the decline in rental income in 2025 from last year is likely explained by the \$6,500 less in Mega Sales rental fees this year vs last.

Update on the Grandstands Project: Brent shared that the grandstand seating is having new wood installed since the contractor determined that it would be less costly than the original plan of stripping the lead paint off the existing wood. Painting of the new wood will happen in the Spring. Brent also explained that Rock County Administrator's Office submitted the grandstand project for a state grant that would reimburse 50% of the cost and once the restoration is complete, and the grant is awarded to Rock County, the grant would then reimburse the county up to 50% of the restoration costs. If it was funded with sales tax, it would more than likely go back to sales tax or the general fund.

Fair Board Report: Ryan George said that typical winter projects are ongoing. The theme has been decided, and they are working on getting entertainment booked. Ryan also mentioned that he hopes to get a flag installed on the south cell towers, at least during the week of the fair, to help celebrate America's 250-year anniversary.

Comments from the Committee: None.

Set Next Meeting Date : The committee agreed that the next meeting will be January 14, 2026 at 7:15 pm at the UW Extension office.

Adjournment: Supervisor Schneider moved to adjourn at 8:05 pm, seconded by Supervisor Whitledge. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

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