



## **Minutes - February 11, 2026**

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

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

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Towns

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brad Meier, Alison Pfau, Brent Sutherland

Others Present: Ryan George

**Adopt Agenda:** Supervisor Ringhand moved approval of the February 11, 2026 agenda, seconded by Supervisor Schneider. ADOPTED

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**January 14, 2026 Ag & Extension Committee Minutes:** Supervisor Ringhand moved approval of the February 12, 2026 Ag and Extension minutes, seconded by Supervisor Schneider. ADOPTED.

**Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:** None

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

**Review of January Payments:** January payments were reviewed.

**Program Report: Alison Pfau, Bilingual Regional Dairy Educator:** Allison Pfau, a bilingual Regional Dairies Educator, presented on various dairy farming programs and initiatives, including a cost survey for raising heifers, milk quality training, and a Spanish-language webinar series. She reported strong attendance and engagement in her programs, with particular success in her Spanish-language offerings, which reach both farmers and farm employees. The committee discussed the increasing importance of employee education in dairy farming, with large dairies investing in worker training to improve retention rates.

**Monthly Impact Report:** Chrissy Wen introduced the monthly report, highlighting the many recent or upcoming Rock County Extension activities including the crops and horticulture initiatives. Chrissy pointed out the statewide Extension efforts mentioned in the report, that extend the offerings of the local office, and in this case, it's about a health insurance enrollment assistance program called Covering Wisconsin. Chrissy also encouraged the committee members to please attend any of the

local Extension programming events to best see the impact of the local community efforts first-hand, highlighting the benefits of seeing educators outside the formal committee meeting setting.

**Positive Youth Educator Position Update:** Chrissy Wen reported that the Positive Youth Educator position was still pending approval, despite efforts to expedite the process, but assured that work on the YIG program continued with her and Brad, through efforts that included the Youth in Governance website development and the creation and monitoring of the YIG program Qualtrics application process.

### **Fairgrounds::**

**Review of January Payments:** The committee reviewed January's payment questions, with Brent noting that 4-H reimbursements should have been listed as Fair Board reimbursements, adding that the changes to the account have already been made. Brent explained that the reimbursements are part of the contractual agreement and are for the costs of water and electricity during the fair. Brent mentioned that due to the rising water and electricity costs and the consequent increase in reimbursements paid by the Fair Board, he's asking the committee to consider opening up discussions on the contract with the Fair Board in the near future.

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

**Review of Yearly Contracts:** The committee also reviewed yearly contracts, noting a spike in alcohol allowances in 2023, and discussed the decrease in such allowances in 2026. They briefly touched on the renovation update, but no specific details were provided.

**Update on Bathroom Renovation:** Brent presented plans for expanding a bathroom at the fairgrounds, which will be funded through a \$150,000 fairground improvement budget account and, in combination with a \$78,000 plumbing upgrades budget, with the idea of making ADA compliance improvements and expanding the bathrooms to include more stalls.

### **Updates on Alliant Solar Array:**

**UW Test Plots Within the Solar Array:** Brent also provided progress on the Alliant solar array, where UW Madison - Division of Extension, with the help of Rock County Extension's Crops & Soils Educator, Josh Kamps, has been granted permission to conduct test plots under the panels, despite initial liability concerns.

**Signage for Alliant Solar Array:** Brent also introduced the image of the Alliant Solar proposed sign design drawing and sign placement details, which was followed by committee discussion.

**Fair Board Report:** Ryan George thanked the committee for their county budget support on this bathroom project and is looking forward to working with the county on this with the newly elected

members of the Fair Board. Ryan shared that the Fair Board is generally on board with the co-funded bathroom project and added that the Fair Board is asking for finalized details before any official commitment. Ryan provided an update on fair entertainment changes, noting a nationwide shift in like-sized fairs towards fewer national and more local or regional acts to reduce overall entertainment costs. Ryan shared that the fair book has been finalized and will be going to print soon. Brent added that the grandstands will be ready for this year's fair.

**Comments from the Committee:** None.

**Set Next Meeting Date :** The committee agreed that the next meeting will be March 11, 2026 at 7:15 pm at the UW Extension office.

**Adjournment:** Supervisor Ringhand moved to adjourn at 8:15 pm, seconded by Supervisor Schneider. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

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