



Minutes - March 11, 2026

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

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

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Towns

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brad Meier, Julie Hill, Mike Parille

Others Present: Ryan George,

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

Approval of Minutes:

February 11, 2026 Ag & Extension Committee Minutes: Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the February 11, 2026 Ag and Extension minutes, seconded by Supervisor Whitledge. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Division of Extension::

Review of February Payments: February Payments were reviewed.

Program Report: Julie Hill, Horticulture Educator: Julie Hill, presented on various programming, educational initiatives, and activities. Julie talked about the Master Gardener program and noted the significant effort and contributions of the group within the county, including their work with over 1,000 hours across 19 local organizations. She also shared details about recent programs, including a Memory Café activity at the Hedberg Library for people with dementia and their caregivers, as well as a hands-on fruit tree pruning workshop at UW Whitewater. Julie talked about an activity with the Rock County Human Services Department, that included a presentation she presented about getting started in gardening. Julie also discussed some summer program planning that is underway with the Gifts Mens Shelter on gardening and raised bed gardening. Julie also talked about some additional upcoming events, including a hummingbird program at the Janesville Senior Center and a composting educational program at Hedberg Library. The conversation also covered spongy moth infestations, with Julie explaining that while the current local area populations have decreased, future infestations are possible.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy shared details about the monthly impact report, highlighting various educational activities and workshops conducted by staff members, including the Agriculture, FoodWise, Health & Well-Being, and 4-H programs. She also mentioned the Health & Well-Being WEcope programming and the collaboration with the Rock County Prevention Network and the planning of the upcoming 4-H camp for 2026 and the ongoing need for more adult volunteers. Chrissy encouraged the committee to attend any of Extension programs to see the outstanding work being done in the community first-hand.

Positive Youth Educator Position Update: The group discussed the posting of a new educator position, which Chrissy explained would be open for four weeks and would then undergo a formal interview process.

Fairgrounds::

Review of February Payments: February payments were reviewed.

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

Brief discussion noting the slight drop off of rental contracts from last year.

APPROVED

Review of Yearly Total Contracts: Mike Parille introduced the year-to-date contracts followed by discussion about future report content and format.

Request to Waive Rental Fee - FFA: Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the waiving of rental fees for the Milton FFA Pig Show, seconded by Supervisor Whitledge.

The committee discussed the merits of the request.

APPROVED

Fair Board Report: Ryan George shared that the sponsorship packages program will be ready soon. Ryan is hoping to announce the entertainment by the end of March. The Fair Board has met with Mike and others to discuss the bathroom project, and they want to help financially, adding that they are awaiting drawings and pricing before committing anything financially to the project.

Comments from the Committee: Committee discussion included wanting to revisit the rental contract and pricing after the summer season when there would be some data from the summer usage of the Craig Center now that the air conditioner is operational.

Set Next Meeting Date : The committee agreed that the next meeting will be April 8, 2026 at 7:15 pm at the UW Extension office.

Adjournment: Supervisor Schneider moved to adjourn at 7:55 pm, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

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