

Minutes
Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
Wednesday October 9, 2013
Rm. 250, Rock County Courthouse
Janesville, WI

Unapproved

- 1. Call to Order:** The October 9, 2013 meeting of the Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order by Vice Chair Arnold at 7:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Supervisors Arnold, Pleasant, Sweeney and Wiedenfeld. Supervisor Bostwick arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Staff present: Jim Stute, Department Head; Angie Flickinger, Family Living Educator; Sheila De Forest, WNEP Administrator.

Also present: E Her and Laura Kerecman, Wisconsin Center for Public Health Education and Training (WiCPHET) Interns

- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve by Pleasant, second by Wiedenfeld, motion carried.

- 3. Educator Report: WiPHET Intern Final Project Presentations:** Her and Kerecman are graduate students at UW-Milwaukee's Zoeber School of Public Health and served as interns in Rock County in with the UW-Extension Family Living Program/ WiCPHET partnership from June to October 2013. Her conducted an evaluation of the Strong Women program in Rock County, collecting and analyzing quantitative data related to gain in strength of successful program participants as well as qualitative data to assess attitudes and changes in behavior of participants. She learned how to evaluate human subjects while maintaining confidentiality and her analysis showed an unintended outcome, that program participants increased their quality of life by increased social interaction and networking.

Kerecman worked on the Farm to School project, a joint effort of UW-Extension and the Rock County Health Department which is part of the bigger Transform Rock County project, funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control. She examined the barriers to getting locally grown produce into school lunch programs. Producer barriers include: scale of production and logistical considerations. Institutional barriers are financially driven and include additional labor for food preparation compared to using prepackaged, institutional food; lack of equipment; procurement regulations and liability. If the program is successful, student will benefit from better nutrition and farmers will have more local outlets for their production.

Supervisor Bostwick assumed the role of Chair.

- 4. Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** None.
- 5. Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the September 9, 2013 minutes as corrected by Wiedenfeld, second by Pleasant, motion carried.
- 6. 4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts:** None.

7. **Approval of Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Stute reviewed the departmental bills and transfers. Motion to approve by Arnold, second by Sweeney, motion carried.
8. **4-H Fairgrounds Ash Tree Preservation Plan:** Stute presented a plan developed by Horticulture Educator Christy Marsden. There are a total of 13 trees on the Rock County Fairgrounds. Of these thirteen, one should be removed and the other 12 should be treated against emerald ash borer (EAB). The Department of Parks and Recreation found K & W Greenery of Janesville to be the lowest of nine bidders when looking for treatment options for city ash trees. K & W estimated total cost of treating the 12 fair ground ash trees, with the specific DBH measurements taken, at around \$1,795.20. This treatment will last around two years, and require reapplication. Treatment is effective against EAB infestations. This plan will be implemented as part of routine fairgrounds maintenance.
9. **UW-Extension 133 Contract:** Stute reviewed the contract for FY 2014. Motion to approve by Sweeney, second by Wiedenfeld, motion approved.
10. **Department Updates:** Stute reported that Angie Flickinger's position will be increased to 0.7 FTE from 0.6 and that she will be assuming some co-Department Head responsibilities. The Rock County UW-Extension Office had a Civil Rights Review on October 2 and results are pending. These reviews are conducted by the state every four years to insure we are in compliance with USDA civil rights regulations. The office will develop an action plan for 2014 based on results. Future agenda items for committee consideration will include nominations to the Rock County Drainage Board and a Memorandum of Understanding with the 4-H Leaders Association for funding 20% of the 4-H Program Advisor position.
11. **Comments from the Committee:** None.
12. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Arnold, second by Pleasant, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James K. Stute
Department Head