

Rock County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee
Wednesday, July 10, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
2nd Floor Courthouse Conference Room
Rock County Courthouse
Janesville WI

Minutes

Present: Supervisors Arnold, Wiedenfeld, Sweeney
Chair Bostwick arrived later in the meeting
Absent: Supervisor Pleasant
Staff Present: Jim Stute, Sheila JaDouI
Guests: Randy Thompson, Rob McConnell-Fair Board President, John
Morning, SWAG

1. **Call to Order:** The June 12, 2013, meeting of the Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order by Vice-chair Arnold at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Hold item 5 until Chair Bostwick arrives. Any changes, additions deletions? None Motion to approve agenda by Alan, seconded by Wiedenfeld, motion carried
3. **Approval of June 12, 2013, Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve as written by Sweeney, seconded by Wiedenfeld, motion carried.
4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** None
5. **4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts**
 - a. Fair Association Report - Rob McConnell reported on the status of the 2013 4-H Fair. Ticket sales are going well. Extra cost to see Hunter Hayes; almost sold out. Also extra for Trace Adkins, tickets are going slower but no worries about them as many people buy the last week or the week of the fair.

The Queen coronation was pushed back and held at the Milton High School which is air conditioned. As the Queen has been able to do more advertising, appearances, they feel they stumbled onto something good and anticipate keeping it done this way.

The County Board members will be by Tourism under the west end of the grandstand. Last year they had an extra tent for them to use. They do not have one this year.

Rob McConnell-Fair Board President and John Morning, SWAG reported about SWAG's plans to open a venue in Evansville and the association with the Rock County Fair Board. Presentation was given to the full County Board early spring and also directly to Craig Knutson. Craig suggested they come to the A&E Committee for direction.

- Funding is in process.
- Original Feasibility study has been revised.
- Looking for support from the County for the move.

- Possibility of the 4-H Fair moving to their site.
- Dane County has signed another 4 year contract with the Alliant Center and will not be coming. They were removed from the proposal.
- Green County is not interested in going to the site; out of their county.
- Creating a regional site would be beneficial for many functions: dairy expo, fairs, festivals, etc.
- If fairs are not interested, Education may become the primary focus.
- BTC has committed \$1.5 Million for educational facilities.
- The first in would have the best choice of spaces.
- Aging Buildings, liability, should be a concern.

b. Approval of Fairgrounds Rental Contracts

- Tentative Sunday 9/8 for SSI Company Picnic. They would use the Craig Center, Pavilion and Grandstand. Lisa Crawford is going to let Randy know next week. Rent would be \$400.00.
- November 24, 2013, Wisconsin Satin Breeders Rabbit Show would use the Craig Center, \$275 and Heat Surcharge of \$65.00

Randy would like them both approved even though one is tentative at this time. That way if it does go forth, he can have the contract created.

Motion to approve by Sweeney, seconded by Wiedenfeld, motion carried.

6. **Approval of Extension Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Stute reviewed the departmental bills and transfers. Wiedenfeld asked about the Sundry account; who is Sheila JaDoul? Sheila said that it is she. Wiedenfeld asked if she had been there before? Yes at the May meeting but the not the June as it was Pork Fest and Jim took the minutes. What is Roots Community Farm and what was the purchase for? Jim said it was for the Farm to School program. Purchase of fresh vegetables for lunch programs which went over very well. Motion to approve by Sweeney, second by Wiedenfeld, motion carried.
7. **Educator report - Christy Marsden:** Jim reported that he had put Christy on the agenda. However, she is out of state at a family event. She will be put back on the agenda in August.
8. **Semi-Annual Conference Attendance Report:** Jim reported that per County Ordinance, all departments need to report any education conference expenses that exceed \$1,000 bi-annually. UWEXT have had no educational/travel expenses that have been over \$1, 0000 between January 1st to June 30th. Many expenses are paid by the State of Wisconsin for UWEX. No action
9. **Department Update:** Stute gave an update on the department. Christy Marsden started on July 1, 2013. She will be handling the Health Plant Advisers, Master Garden program and other horticulture questions. Jim said she is fitting in very well and is anxious to get the programs going. Any pesticide questions will be shared by Jim and Christy.

4-H Fair will be from July 23rd through July 28th.

Budget meeting for all Department Heads was held on June 14th. The County had not planned on the 1% pay increase for unilateral employees for the 2013 budget. The Actuaries expect the health care costs to go up between 8-10%.

We are awaiting figures from accounting to show where we are as of June 30th. 2014 will have some increases as there is an additional employee as well as replacing 5 computers

New Committee Member Norvain Pleasant replaced Deloyde Sanders.

10. Comments from the Committee - none

11. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Sweeney, seconded by Wiedenfeld, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Sheila JaDoul