

**MINUTES**  
**ROCK COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, April 8, 2009**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Courthouse Conference Center**  
**Rock County Courthouse**  
**JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN**

1. **Call to Order:**

The meeting of the Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order by Chair Richard Bostwick at 7:03 p.m.

**Committee members present:** Supervisors Bostwick, Supervisor Arnold, Supervisor Combs, Supervisor Sweeney, and Supervisor Wiedenfeld.

**Committee members absent:** None

**Staff present:** Randy Thompson, Rock County U W Extension Office Chair and Jim Stute, Crops and Soils Educator.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Combs moved to approve the agenda as printed and seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Motion carried.

3. **Approval of Minutes of March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009:** Supervisor Wiedenfeld moved to approve the minutes as written and seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.

4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** None

5. **Approval of Extension Bills and Transfers:** Randy Thompson reviewed the Extension bills. Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.

6. **Agent Report:** Jim Stute, Crops and Soils Educator, presented an update on Educational programs during the past three months. Stute also discussed planned research projects at the County Farm and on-farm demonstrations planned for 2009.

7. **Discussion and Update on Rock County Drainage Districts and Drainage Board:** Jim Stute indicated that Rock County maintains seven Drainage Districts. A five member board administers the Drainage Districts with Jim Stute serving as Executive Secretary. The five member board will need to be reappointed in 2009. Recommendations will be made by the Ag and Extension Education Committee according to State Statutes. The Ag Committee is required to submit three names for each board position to the Circuit Court Judge who will appoint the board. Communications will be sent to landowners in the seven Drainage Districts requesting nominations. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Ag Committee for consideration later this summer.

8. **Discussion of State WACEC Conference:** Randy Thompson presented information on the annual WACEC Conference scheduled for June 15-16, 2009 in LaCrosse. Reservations will be due at the May 2009 Ag Committee meeting. Reservation materials will be sent to committee members when they arrive, Thompson encouraged Committee members to consider attending.

9. **County Farm Update:** Thompson provided an update on the Community Garden Program. Public interest in plot rental has been high. Presently, 12 plots remain



and it is anticipated 140 plots will be rented by the end of April. The Master Gardeners in conjunction with the RECAP Program are completing plans for the ½ acre RECAP Garden. In the past three years, the RECAP Garden Program has donated over 20,000 lbs of produce to area food pantries.

The completion of the Farm Building Demolition will occur later this summer. Rob Leu has indicated that demolition will be completed following the installation of the new water system for the Healthcare Complex,

10. **4-H Fairground Rental Contracts and Maintenance**

The following contracts were presented for committee approval: 11/7/2009 – Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Show and Sale (Fee \$340); 11/14 Paige Komar Craft Fair (Fee \$395); 11/6-11/8 – All Breed Cat Show – Chris Buck (Fee \$900); 11/29 – Wisconsin Satin Rabbit Breeders Show (Fee \$300). A motion to approve the rentals and proposed fees was made by Supervisor Sweeney and seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Motion carried.

Thompson informed the committee that preliminary discussions have occurred regarding the formation of a “Friends of the Fairgrounds” group. The private initiative would look to provide private support for maintaining the current fairgrounds. The group would be separate from the Fair Association and comprised of interested individuals and businesses and organizations concerned with the upkeep of the current grounds.

11. **Comments from the Committee – none**

12. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Arnold and seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Randy Thompson, Office Chair