

Rock County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee
Wednesday, August 13, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
2nd Floor Courthouse Conference Room
Rock County Courthouse
Janesville WI

Unapproved Minutes

Committee Members Present: Supervisor Bostwick, Dowd, Richard, Sweeney and Wiedenfeld

Staff Members Present: Donna Duerst, Christy Marsden, Nick Baker, Randy Thompson, Sheila JaDoul

Guests Present: Fair Board: John Quinn, Bob Risseuw

1. Call to Order

The August 13, 2014, meeting of the Rock County Extension Education Committee was called to order by Chair Bostwick at 7:01 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of July 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Wiedenfeld, seconded by Richard, no changes, additions or deletions; motion carried

4. Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements

None

5. Educator Reports: Christy Marsden, Horticulture Educator

Christy reported that she was able to hire 2 Americorps Farm 2 School Interns. They should be able to help expand the Farm 2 School Program in Janesville, Beloit and other areas.

Christy gave a report on EAB (Emerald Ash Borer). She gave the committee handouts. Ash trees at the Fairgrounds have been treated. If anyone would like further information or have an Educational Training done, contact Christy.

6. 4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts

Tuesday, August 26th: Carson & Barnes Circus

Grandstand Area & Craig Center Bathrooms \$1,000 + \$300 Clean-up Deposit

Sunday, September 21st: Vets Honor Roll Reunion Event, Mark Finnegan

Craig Center - \$305

Thursday, October 16th-Saturday, October 18th: Spotlight on Kids Halloween Walk
Craig Center & Grass Area \$500 (Normally \$900)

Saturday, October 18th: River Hills Community Church Square Dance
Craig Center \$305

Saturday, November 30th: Wisconsin Satin Rabbit Breeders Show
Craig Center Fee \$305 plus \$70 heat surcharge

Discussion: Recommendation to waive the fee for the Vets Roll Event –
Approved

Spotlights Halloween Walk – normally would be \$900, recommendation to
charge only \$500 – approved

Circus: Are there animal acts? Yes.

Have they been fined? Randy said he looked and could find
nothing for the last 2 years. There have been animal rights groups
picketing before. They can be on the sidewalk, just can't come
onto the grounds.

Randy discussed the budget.

- i. Will need to finish the gate rekeying; waiting for parts.
- ii. Per COJ, need a by-pass valve for water lines - \$1,800 which
is steep, waiting for other quotes.
- iii. Non-lapsing account will carry over \$54,000 into 2015.
- iv. Approximately \$60,000 in capital; electrical upgrades
continue; replace security fencing in sections-Craig Avenue
in 2015, Randall Avenue in 2016, Memorial Drive in 2017.
Bathroom by the Fair Office is not heated; upgrade is
needed.
- v. 2015 Carry over will be about 28,000, which is lower than
last year. Will need about \$15,000 of the tax base,

7. Fair Board Report

- 2014 Fair Attendance – 80,000, 2013-102,000 (Florida Georgia Line),
2012-73,000, 2011, 77,000
- The Animal sale and the Fur & Feather Sale continue to have awesome
community support. Except for the 1st day of heat, we had awesome
weather.
- Entertainment Costs continue to be difficult to gauge. We get what we
pay for. If you get an act that doesn't fill seats, even if they are less
expensive, it costs us in the end. Additional charges to the public, hope to
cover about 50-60% of the cost of the act.
- The Fair Board Thanks the Committee for the continued support.
- Location of fair discussed.

8. Discuss Options for Management of the Rock County 4-H Fairgrounds

Is there a job description? Not at this time, it's something that Donna & Angie can work on.

Randy has commented that 'it's not worth the headaches". Sweeney said he had spoken with Administration and Committee does need to do what they can to keep Randy. His experience is invaluable.

Find out from Randy what it would take to keep him. Specific working hours, contact hours, additional compensation? If we know what the actual issues are, we can work to overcome them.

All members agree to try and keep Randy.

Supervisors Sweeney, Bostwick and Wiedenfeld will work together to address the issue.

Put on September agenda again.

9. Discuss Farm: Spoil Pile and Perimeter of Rock Haven

Supervisor Sweeney handed out a 2013 Air Photo of the Rock Haven, Community Garden areas. Sweeney had detailed some areas with red lines. These are areas that are left over from the Rock Haven construction which are covered in noxious weeds; among them is Ragweed which many people are allergic to. Sweeney approached Rob Leu about mowing this area. Unfortunately Mr. Leu was not willing to mow this area. Land Conservation used Public Works equipment to take the weeds down. Nick agreed that this could be tillable for either the lease or the community garden. It could be as much as 3 to 4 acres. We could also look at maybe taking that 'tree line' down.

10. Farm Update: Nick Baker

Nick has been out looking over the farm, community garden and meeting folks at the gardens. The research season is going ok. Some research folks left; some may come back. Nick is working with that as well. Nick was able to get 2 new tractors from Case for \$1! We were approved as the farm is for educational use. Nick will look to sell the current equipment as a closed bid in order to get the funds back into UW-EXT. The funds could be used as we need a new drill, the corn planter is broken or other equipment for the farm.

Nick & Christy are working on a plan to put a little more separation between the Community Garden and the Recap Garden. Hopefully this will be good for both parties.

Nick is looking at doing some swapping of planting areas. Switch some research area with lease land. Planting the same thing in the same area can cause problems. Christy is working with a Tomato Research plot that would need ½ to 1 acre.

May need to rent a utility tractor and take care of some of the rebar, concrete and perhaps the trees?

11. Approval of Extension Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances

Motion to approve by Sweeney, seconded by Dowd. No questions all bills moved.

12. Update from Department

Donna handed out the updated Staff Index for the front of your books; Nick's name has been added.

Budget was submitted, 2 weeks early from the extension date. All went well and Donna & Angie will report on the budget numbers once they meet with Administration. \$5,000 was added in for the repair of the driveway out at the Community Garden.

13. Comments from the Committee

None

14. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Dowd, seconded by Richard
Meeting ended at 8:30 pm.