

Rock County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee
Wednesday January 8, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Courthouse Conference Center, Rm. 250
Rock County Courthouse
Janesville, WI

Unapproved Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** The January 8, 2014, meeting of the Rock County Extension Education Committee was called to order by Chair Bostwick at 7:02 pm.

Committee members present: Supervisors Bostwick, Pleasant, Sweeney and Wiedenfeld

Committee members absent: Supervisor Arnold

Other members absent: Fair Board President John Quinn and Fair Grounds Supervisor Randy Thompson

Staff Present: Jim Stute, Co-Department Head; Angela Flickinger, Co-Department Head; Donna Duerst, 4-H Youth Development Agent; Sheila JaDoul, Administrative Assistant

Guest: Matt Hanson, Southwest Regional Director

2. **Approval of Agenda:**
Any changes? Both John Quinn and Randy Thompson are at a County Conference, therefore there will not be any reports for #5.
Motion to approve by Sweeney, seconded by Pleasant, motion carried.
3. **Approval of December 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes**
Motion to approve by Sweeney, seconded by Pleasant. Any changes? P. 3 #8, Check 3 word should be capitol, not capital. With changes, motion carried.
4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements** – No citizen participation.
5. **4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts**
 - a. Fair Association Report
 - b. Approval of Fairgrounds Rental Contracts

6. Approval of Extension Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances

Mr. Stute made a clarification of the approval process. He asked Sherry Oja about whether or not all bills have to be approved or denied in their entirety? No, if there is something that the Committee feels is questionable and would like further clarification on, they can 'hold' that bill pending an answer and all the rest would be paid.

Motion to approve by Sweeney, second by Pleasant.

Questions regarding bills/transfers/encumbrances?

Scharine's – 4-H Property, what is this for? It is for the fairgrounds; a refrigeration unit needed work.

Other contracted Services? The bill is for UW IT Tech Support and it is the standard fee.

Motion passed.

7. **Semi-annual Conference Report** - This is a bi-annual report due with any individual training attendance greater than \$1,000. There were no trainings for this reporting period of July 2013-December 2013 greater than \$1,000.

8. **Discussion and Approval to Refill the Agriculture Agent** Position –led by Matt Hanson. Mr. Stute's last day is January 31, 2014. He has been with UW-Extension for 11 years. Is the Committee satisfied with the duties of the Crops and Soils Educator? Matt asked the Committee if they wanted to hold listening sessions with farming partners (both large and small), agricultural vendors, other interested parties in the community, County Board? Discussion ensued. Decision: Members are satisfied with the job description, duties. Committee does not feel listening sessions or going to the full County Board is needed. Proceed with the job posting. They are concerned with the farm research and who will take that over

Matt said that it could take 3 months if not longer. The position needs to be posted for about 4 ½ weeks. Then going over the applications, interviews, second interviews, etc., can take another 1-2 months.

Question: Does Matt think there are any current UW Employees that would like to come to Rock County? Rock County is in the top 5 Counties for

dairy, crops, etc. Matt said he did not think so as experienced, tenured employees make more money and probably would not be willing to take the pay cut.

SUPPORT of refilling the position: Motion by Wiedenfeld, second by Sweeney, Supported by all committee members.

9. **Educator Report- Jim Stute (2013 Farm Report)** Jim handed out the 2013 UWEX Rock County Farm Summary Report. Since 2004 the farm has been under the UW-EXT umbrella. The ultimate goal is to make money on the enterprise. This goes to offset the general fund. There were a few charges in 2014 which were unusual and will not be repeated, i.e. mower-rototiller rental, purchase of mower and hoses. This did bring the revenue down and makes it appear that we did not 'beat the lease'. However, it is still a money making operation.

Jim did say that he has been in talks with the County Administrator to assist with his Graduate Students and the Research Plots. He does not want the research areas to flounder. If this is approved, he will be back to report to the Committee. The County may need to give the graduate students a nominal stipend. Jim's Research Specialist at his new job may also require a minimal stipend if he oversees the test sites as well as the graduate students.

10. **Departmental Performance Review Process** – scheduled to be held at the February Committee meeting. Matt Hanson will run the review process. Can the meeting time be moved? Discussion: agreed that the meeting will begin at 4 pm and keep the agenda light and no educator report; after which time the Performance Reviews will commence. Donna said that there will be a 4-H Resolution recognizing the 100 Year Centennial of 4-H.

11. **Department Update** – Jim said there is nothing else to add.

12. **Comments from the Committee** – None

13. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Pleasant, seconded by Wiedenfeld, meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Sheila M. JaDoul