

**Rock County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee**  
**Wednesday, April 9, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Courthouse Conference Room**  
**Rock County Courthouse**  
**Janesville WI**

**Unapproved Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

The April 9, 2014, meeting of the Rock County Extension Education Committee was called to order by Chair Bostwick at 7:00 pm.

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

**Committee members absent:** Supervisor Arnold

**Staff Present:** Donna Duerst: Co-Department Head-4-H Youth Development Agent; Christy Marsden: Horticulture Educator; Sheila JaDoul, Administrative Assistant

Also Present: Jim Stute; John Quinn, Fair Board President and Bob Risseeuw, Fair Board Member; Colin Byrnes, Planning & Development Department Head, Jason O'Connor, RCSO RECAP Program & Jim Hageman; Mr. Hoffman

**2. Approval of Agenda**

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

Changes to Agenda: Move again #7-Drainage Board. There are not enough nominations to act on the approval.

**3. Approval of March 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve by Wiedenfeld, seconded by Bostwick. Any changes, additions or deletions? None, motion carried.

#### **4. Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements**

None

#### **5. 4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts**

One contract was handed out which covers the agreement with the Fair Board for the 4-H Fair.

Motion by Wiedenfeld, Seconded by Sweeney. Supervisor Wiedenfeld pointed out one misspelt word in the last page-builds – needs to be buildings. Change will be made.

Motion Passed

#### **6. Fair Board Report:**

Mr. Quinn reported that all of the fair entertainment has been booked. Everyone is looking forward to a good turnout and to celebrating the 4-H Centennial Events.

#### **7. Discussion and Approval: Appointments to for Rock County Drainage Board**

Tabled until next meeting or until enough recommendations are received.

#### **8. Discussion of RECAP Contract/MOU**

Christy Marsden has questions about the level of responsibility that UW-Extension has with the RECAP Garden. The farm, community gardens are under the direction of the A&E Committee

The "Jail Garden" began in 1998 and was funded by a grant at first. The purpose was horticulture therapy. The Recap garden has evolved over time. There has been a good working relationship between the Community Garden and the Recap Garden.

The A&E Committee does not want to micro-manage the Recap Garden or the Community Garden.

Jason O'Conner and Jim Haseman represented the Recap Garden. They do have perennials and have no interest in having an orchard.

Supervisor Sweeney asked if they needed more room? No they do not.

What about abandoned plots? Can the recap garden take over the plots? Possible but we have to make every effort to contact the individual to see if they are going to garden or not; they paid for it.

The Recap Garden is a RCSO and is overseen by them. They agreed there is no need for a contract but are allowing Christy to develop an MOU between UWEX and RECAP.

## **9. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Michael Fields Institute Management of Farm Research Trials**

MOU had been handed out to members. Motion Sweeney, Second Wiedenfeld; discussion ensued. The 27 acre research plot will be overseen by Mr. Stute. Michael Fields will cover the liability and the garden research process will remain status quo. Four students will be covering their own research plots. The research pays the funding to pay for Mr. Stute's fees.

What about plowing the garden? Needs to be done by May 1<sup>st</sup>, opening of the Community Garden. Mr. Stute said he will be doing this as a Gentleman's Agreement. The Committee agreed.

Questions about the MOU:

- There is no end date. What is the drop dead date?
  - 12/31/14 However, if a Crops & Soil Educator is hired that can do the research; the MOU has a clause where either party can terminate the MOU.

Motion Passed

**10. Approval of Extension Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances  
Motion by Sweeney, Second by Pleasant**

JP MORGAN Credit Card: A monthly report on its usage will be included with the bills. – Sheila make sure to do this in the future.

11. Educator Report: Christy Marsden, Horticulture Educator and Megan Rebut both made their reports and gave the Committee members their handouts.

**12. Update from the Department**

- ✓ Donna Duerst handed out the binders created for the Committee members to keep the department Educator Reports as well as agenda, minutes all in one place.
- ✓ UW-Extension is working on having another VISTA employee working for us.
- ✓ Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, Donna and Angie will have a teleconference with Matt Hanson to go over the applications for the Crops & Soils Educator position.
- ✓ WACEC is in Eau Claire June 24<sup>th</sup>. As soon as the information arrives, it will be forwarded to the Committee members as well.

**13. Comments from the Committee**

None.

**14. Adjourn**

Motion by Pleasant, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bostwick to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila M. JaDoul