

Minutes
Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
Wednesday, January 12th, 2011
2nd Floor Courthouse Conference Center
Rock County Courthouse
Janesville, WI

1. **Call to Order:** The January 12th 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: Supervisor Arnold, Supervisor Bostwick, Supervisor Combs, Supervisor Sweeney, Supervisor Wiedenfeld.

Staff Present: Randy Thompson, Department Head and Jim Stute, Crops and Soils Educator.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Jim Stute requested items 7 and 8 be moved up in the agenda. A motion was made by Supervisor Arnold and seconded by Supervisor Sweeney to approve the agenda with item 7- Agent Report and item 8 – Discussion of UW Extension Office Relocation to follow item 4 – Citizen Participation. Motion carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** (December 8th, 2010 minutes) A motion to approve the December 8th, 2010 minutes as presented was made by Supervisor Wiedenfeld and seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Motion carried.
4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** None.

5. **Agent Report**

Jim Stute, Crops and Soils Educator presented a summary of the UWEX Rock County Farm Enterprise. Extension research trial corn averaged 233 bushels/acre, soybean trial yields were 79 bushels/acres, and winter wheat trials averaged 68 bushels/acre. Community Garden will be expanded in 2011 to accommodate increased interest by the general public. The total cash contribution from the UWEX Farm Projects and Programs was \$10,867. This doesn't include the value of local research conducted at the farm, or the value of produce donated to local Food Pantries as a result of the RECAP Garden Program.

Stute provided an update on Nutrient Management Programs being offered to producers this winter. A series of meetings are scheduled to train producers to write their own nutrient management plans. Stute also discussed several pest management and Agronomy Update programs offered for area producers and Ag Professionals.

6. **Discussion of Relocation of Rock County UW Extension Office:** Thompson updated the committee on recent discussions involving the relocation of the UW Extension Office to county owned building adjacent to the Health Department on Highway 51. The proposed relocation would include Land Conservation, NRCS and FSA offices to create a one stop Ag Service Center. Currently, FSA, Land Conservation, and NRCS are renting office space on Highway 14 east of Janesville. The relocation would better serve the Ag Community and allow for other departments within the courthouse to populate the UW Extension office space.
7. **Approval of Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Randy Thompson reviewed the department bills. A motion was made by Supervisor Combs to approve the bills as presented. Motion seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Motion carried.

8. 4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts:

- A. **Report from Fair Association Representative:** Bob Arndt, President of the Rock County Fair Association was unable to attend due to the Wisconsin Association of Fairs Convention.
- B. **Approval of 4-H Fairgrounds Contracts:** Thompson presented the following contracts for the committee to approve. Contracts presented included the following: April 9, 2011 – Badger State Auction Lamb Sale (proposed fee of \$380); May 28th-WI-IL Goat Association (proposed fee of \$275); June 15th – Rock County Pork Producers Porkfest (proposed fee \$275); June 21st – District Holstein Show – Rock County Holstein Breeders (proposed fee \$260); last Wednesday each month – Echo food Distribution (proposed fee – no charge).

A motion to approve the 4-H Fairgrounds rental contracts and proposed fees was made by Supervisor Combs. Motion seconded by Supervisor Bostwick. Motion carried.

Thompson presented one additional rental. The George Cardin Circus would like to rent the grounds for one day on Tuesday, May 17th and hold two shows. The circus has been held in the past in conjunction with the Zor Shriners. The Shriners would not be involved with this year's circus. Thompson proposed a fee of \$1,000. A motion was made by Supervisor Sweeney and second by Supervisor Arnold to approve the rental fee of \$1,000. Motion carried.

- C. **Discussion of Capital Improvement Projects for 2011:** Thompson presented a list of projects for 2011 which include: (1) Completion of Water Line Project; (2) Painting of the Swine Barn/Sales Arena; (3) Additional Electrical Upgrades, (4) Steel Door Replacements on Craig Center and Stock Pavilion.

Supervisor Combs requested staff research the cost of replacing the Security Fence and discussing with the Fair Board improvements to the Craig Avenue and Memorial Drive entrances.

9. Department Updates:

Thompson reported that Christina Parent has accepted the .4 FTE backfill Family Living Position. Christina will start July 1st according to Southern District Director, Dick Pederson.

9. **Annual Statewide WACEC Conference** – The annual statewide WACEC Conference will be held in Madison on March 28-30, 2011. Thompson recommended that the committee plan to attend on March 29th only. The program on March 29th will include Legislative visits to the Capitol. Additional information will be available at the February meeting.

10. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Wiedenfeld and seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Randy Thompson