

Minutes
Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
Wednesday, February 13, 2012
Rm. 250, Rock County Courthouse
Janesville, WI

Unapproved

1. **Call to Order:** The February 13, 2013 meeting of the Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order by Chair Bostwick at 7:03 p.m.

Committee members present: Supervisors Bostwick, Sweeney and Wiedenfeld.

Committee members absent: Supervisors Arnold and Sanders.

Staff present: Jim Stute, Gena McGuigan, Donna Duerst, Megan Rebout

Also present: Randy Thompson; Rob McConnell, President, Rock County 4-H Fair Board; Craig O'Leary, Rock County 4-H Board; SWAG members: Mike Larson, John Morning, George Andrew, Kevin Klahn; Kevin Wood, Wood Communications.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Request to remove item #9. Motion to approve the agenda as amended by Sweeney, second by Wiedenfeld, motion carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of January 9, 2013 were reviewed. Motion to approve as written by Wiedenfeld, second by Sweeney, motion carried.
4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** None.
5. **Southern Wisconsin Agricultural Group (SWAG) update:** Kevin Wood, Wood Communications and the SWAG board provided an update of their activities related to launching the multi-use Agricultural Education facility in Evansville. Their feasibility study and business plans are complete and they are in the process of fund raising. The feasibility study suggests they need events 220 days a year to be viable. The business model stresses meeting unmet demand, not direct competition with other venues. The location will allow them to complement or supplement existing events and venues, in many cases providing off-site facilities for events such as World Dairy Expo which has outgrown the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. The board will report progress at a future committee meeting.
6. **4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts:** Randy Thompson reported that the boiler in the Craig Center had to have some repair work done.

A. Fair Association Report: Rob McConnell shared that the entertainment lineup had been announced with the exception of the Thursday evening entertainment, which will be announced at a later date. Rob said the fair is on track for another successful fair for 2013.

B. Approval of Fairgrounds Rental Contracts:

May 17-19 ---S. Wisconsin Quilter Show, Blackhawk & Craig Center, Fee \$855

May 18 --- Beef Preview Show, Rock County Beef Producers, fee - waived

June 22 --- Club Barrow Show, Ken Luety, Fee \$290

August 22 --- Rock County Beef Cookout, Rock County Beef Producers, Fee \$275

November 5 --- All Breed Cat Show, Chris Buck, Fee \$290 plus \$65 heat surcharge

Motion to waive the fee for the Beef Preview Show by Wiedenfeld, second by Sweeney, motion carried. Motion by Wiedenfeld to approve all other contracts, second by Sweeney, motion carried.

7. **Approval of Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Stute reviewed the departmental bills and transfers. Motion to approve by Sweeney, second by Wiedenfeld, motion carried.
8. **Educator Report - Donna Duerst & Megan Rebout:** Megan shared that the recent Bowling Bonanza was a huge success, with a record number of 97 bowlers attending the 2-hour event. Megan said the Junior Council has added a brief education & recreation component to their monthly meetings that coincides with the current event they are working on. Donna shared membership and project numbers for 2013. Donna noted that numbers were not exact, as there was a problem with 4-H Plus dropping off some members and projects, but that they were in the process of inputting those members and projects back into the system. Donna shared some of her additional activities with the board, and also shared upcoming 4-H events.
9. **Repealing Section 3.206(19) and Creating Section 3.220 of the Rock County Code of Ordinances:** Stute explained that they were redrafting the Mistreatment of Animals section so that it matches the Wisconsin State Statutes, with regard to indoor standards. Motion to approve by Sweeney, second by Wiedenfeld, motion carried.
10. **WACEC State Conference:** WACEC State Conference is April 8-10, with legislative visits on April 9. A wisline on how to prepare for the legislative visits will be available on March 19 or April 2. Jim will have further information available at the next committee meeting.
11. **Department Updates:** Stute reported that the second round of the WNEP position search failed, and the position has been reposted for the third time. Stute said Angie Flickinger will remain the interim WNEP Coordinator until April. The Horticulture position is due to be posted on February 15, as 100% academic staff appointment. The interim 4-H position expires on April 16, but can be rolled over with a short-term contract. Stute reported that they are currently in discussions regarding filling this position on a full-time basis, and that the new program leader Dale Leidheiser is supportive of the position. Stute said they will be meeting with Matt Hanson to discuss filling the position in the traditional 40%/60% instead of using a surcharge.

Stute reported that poles are being replaced out at the Rock County Farm and that part of the RECAP garden and research plots have been torn up and rutted. Per the easement, they are to repair any damage or reimburse for the County for the cost of such repairs.

~~Stute reported that Silva provided a new rent estimate for the Ag Service Center down from approximately \$50K to \$36K. Possible payment for the rental could come from farm income, including crop rental revenue. UW-Extension is the major user of courthouse facilities after hours. For now, the security issue has been tabled.~~

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

13. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Wiedenfeld, second by Sweeney, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gena McGuigan