

Minutes
Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
Wednesday, December 12, 2012
Rm. 250, Rock County Courthouse
Janesville, WI

Unapproved

1. **Call to Order:** The December 12, 2012 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

Also present: Rob McConnell, President, Rock County 4-H Fair Board

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Sweeney, second by Wiedenfeld, motion carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of November 14, 2012 were reviewed. Motion to approve as written by Wiedenfeld, second by Sweeney, motion carried.
4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** None.
5. **4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts:** Rob McConnell provided an update report on behalf of the Fair Board. They are currently booking entertainment for 2013. They feel that the Josh Turner show in 2012 was a success even though it just broke even, due to the extra traffic it brought to the grounds. The 2012 Fair lost \$50,000 after depreciation, due in part to lower attendance. Outgoing Directors John Quinn and Stephanie Gassen will be replaced by Ryan George and Dave Johnson. The Board is still in talks with the SWAG group about locating on their grounds in Evansville in the future.

Stute presented the most recent contracts for fairgrounds rentals (2013):

- 1/12, Mega Sale, Paige Fischer, Craig Center, Fee: \$400 plus \$65 heat surcharge
- 1/17-20, Take a Kid Hunting Gun Show, Bob Pucci, Craig Center, Fee: \$1610 includes heat surcharge
- 1/27, Janesville Beloit Kennel Club, Craig Center, Fee: \$355 includes heat surcharge
- 2/16, Mega Sale, Paige Fischer, Craig Center, Fee: \$465 including heat surcharge
- 3/1-3, Janesville Rifle & Pistol Club Gun Show, Craig Center, Fee: \$887.50 including heat surcharge
- 3/8-10, Belgium Travuren Dog Show, Craig Center, Fee: \$1065 including heat surcharge
- 3/23, Mega Sale, Paige Fischer, Craig Center, Fee: \$465 including heat surcharge

Motion to approve the contracts by Sweeney, second by Wiedenfeld, motion carried.

6. **Approval of Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Stute reviewed the departmental bills. Motion to approve by Wiedenfeld, second by Sweeney, motion carried.
7. **Discussion and approval of waterway installation and tree line removal at the Rock County Farm:** Stute reported that Badgerland Grain included in their lease bid the installation of several waterways and removal of two tree lines on the farm at no cost to Rock County and is seeking permission to proceed. They have submitted their Certificate of Insurance as required by the lease. Stute was asked to work

with the tenants to make sure waterways cause minimal change to the surface profile. Motion to approve waterway installation and tree line removal by Wiedenfeld, second by Bostwick, motion carried.

- 8. Educator Report, UW-Extension Research/ Demonstration Plots:** Stute provided a year-end financial summary of the 29 acre research/ demonstration and community garden operations at the County Farm. The year-end cash contribution to the general fund from both operations combined was \$15,826.68 (\$13,608.22 plots, \$2,218.46 garden). This amount is down approximately \$700 from 2011, the result of lower crop yields, higher input costs and a substantial increase in water cost for the garden due to drought. Since 2004, the first year UW-Extension operated the research plots as an enterprise, they have returned \$24,080.04 more to the general fund than if the land had been included in the crop land lease and rented out.
- 9. Department Updates:** Stute reported that the vacant WNEP Administrator position closed December 11 and that qualified candidates would be invited to preliminary interviews in Madison on January 4. Final interviews will be held in Rock County the week of January 14 if a suitable pool of candidates is available. Angie Flickinger will report for the WNEP program at the January committee meeting.
- 10. Comments from the Committee:** none
- 11. Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Sweeney, second by Wiedenfeld, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James K. Stute