

MINUTES
ROCK COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, FEBRUARY 9th, 2011
2nd Floor Courthouse Conference Center
Rock County Courthouse
JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN

1. **Call to Order:**

The meeting of the Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order by Chair Richard Bostwick at 7:02 p.m.

Committee members present: Supervisor Bostwick, Supervisor Arnold, Supervisor Combs, Supervisor Sweeney and Supervisor Wiedenfeld.

Staff present: Randy Thompson, Rock Co UWEX, Mike Maddox, Horticulture Educator.

Also Present: Bob Arndt, Rock County 4-H Fair Association President.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda was made by Supervisor Combs and seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Motion carried.

3. **Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2011:** A motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2011 was made by Supervisor Wiedenfeld and seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Motion carried.

4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** None

5. **Extension Bills/Transfers:** Randy Thompson reviewed the departmental bills. A motion to approve the bills as presented was made by Supervisor Combs and seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Motion carried.

Thompson requested a transfer from the Fairgrounds Natural Gas Account 62203 to Fairgrounds R and M Labor Account 62400 in the amount of \$2,656. A motion was made by Supervisor Wiedenfeld and seconded by Supervisor Combs to approve the transfer. Motion carried.

6. **4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts:**

a. **Report from Bob Arndt, Fair Association President:** Arndt reported that plans are underway for the 2011 Rock County 4-H Fair scheduled for July 26-31st. Arndt expressed his appreciation for the strong working relationship between the Fair Association and the County. The Association will be remodeling the old Secretary's Office which now serves as the Fair Museum. In addition, the Rock County Beef Producers are looking to cost share electrical improvements to the beef barn. He expressed appreciation for the Committee's support in remodeling the swine barn. Thompson indicated that the county's contribution would include the painting of the steel structural supports and roof decking as well as the interior of the Sale Arena. The work will be completed in May 2011 including installation of the new hog pens. The pens are being cost shared by the Fair Association and Rock County Pork Producers.

b. **Approval of 4-H Fairgrounds Rental Contracts.** Thompson presented the following rental contracts for committee approval: February 26th – Beef Pork Producers Annual Meeting (proposed fee – no charge); May 28th – WI-IL Dairy Goat Show (proposed fee \$275); June 15th – Rock County Porkfest – Pork Producers (proposed fee \$260); August 6th –

Relay for Life (proposed fee \$275); September 17th – Rock River Wood Carvers (proposed fee \$275); September 30-October 2nd – Janesville Rifle and Pistol Club (proposed fee \$825). October 8th – United Methodist Church Craft Fair (\$275); November 4-6th – All Breed Cat Show (proposed fee of \$1,005. Motion carried.

Supervisor Wiedenfeld suggested waiving the fee for the Relay For Life event. A motion was made by Supervisor Wiedenfeld and seconded by Supervisor Combs to approve the contracts as presented except eliminating the fee for the Relay of Life Event. Motion carried.

- c. **Fairgrounds Maintenance Update:** Thompson indicated that bids would go out to purchase paint for the swine barn renovation project. We will be utilizing Rust-Oleum Pegalink and Noxyde products.
The Sale Arena bathrooms will also be painted this winter by maintenance staff. In addition, discussions are underway to enlarge the west wash rack. The project will be cost shared by the Dairy and Beef Producers organizations.

7. **Discussion of Farm Bureau Request to Construct Farm Bureau Food Stand:** Thompson reported that the Rock County Farm Bureau is developing plans to construct a building 20' X 30' to be used for their food stand during the Fair. Doug Rebout, president of the Rock County Farm Bureau is interested in the committee's support before further planning is completed. The committee indicated they wouldn't object to constructing a permanent building but want to see the design plans before final approval is given. Thompson indicated the Fair Association is supportive as long as it is properly located. Thompson was directed to talk with Rebout and request plan details be presented at an upcoming meeting.
8. **Agent Report- Mike Maddox. Horticulture Educator.** Mike Maddox presented an update on Horticulture Programming. Currently Maddox's position is a 50% position with Rock County UW Extension. The remaining 50% is supported by various grants and state funding for statewide Horticulture programs. Mike continues to work with the Rock Prairie Master Gardeners which is the 3rd largest Master Gardener Program in Wisconsin. Maddox also discussed the RECAP Community Garden Program which is done in collaboration with the Sheriff's Department. The program has received statewide interest from other County Sheriff's Departments.
9. **Annual WACEC State Conference Planning & Legislative Visits:** The committee will be attending the WACEC Conference in Madison on March 29th. The conference will include Legislative visits to the Capitol. Thompson has scheduled visits with Senator Cullen, Representative Loudenberg, Representative Wynn and Representative Knilians on the afternoon of March 29th.
10. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Combs and seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/Randy Thompson, UW
Extension Office Chair