

Minutes
Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
Wednesday, November 10, 2010
2nd Floor Courthouse Conference Center
Rock County Courthouse
Janesville, WI

1. **Call to Order:** The November 10th meeting of the Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order by Chair Richard Bostwick at 7:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Randy Thompson, Department Head and Sue Fredrich, 4-H Program Advisor.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Arnold moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** (October 13th, 2010) The minutes of October 13, 2010 were reviewed. Supervisor Wiedenfeld moved to approve the minutes as printed. Motion seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Motion carried.
4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** Supervisor Sweeney announced that an Open House for PACE Program is scheduled for Tuesday, November 30th, 6:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Center, Rock County Courthouse. Invitations will be sent to landowners, town officials and city officials.
5. **Approval of Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Randy Thompson reviewed the Extension bills as presented. Supervisor Combs moved to approve the bills as presented. Motion seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Motion carried.

Thompson requested approval of a transfer of \$2,738 from Account 64209 – Demonstration to Account 62119 – Other Contracted Services. The cost over run was the result of several promotions granted to professional staff. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.

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

- A. Report from Fair Association Representative: Bob Arnold, President of the 4-H Fair Association was unable to attend the meeting. No report available.

- B. Approval of 4-H Fairgrounds Contracts: Thompson presented the following rental contracts for committee approval: January 15th (Paige Fisher Craft Fair (proposed fee \$445.); January 20-23 Take a Kid Hunting Show – Bob Pucci (proposed fee \$1540 plus \$250 clean up deposit); January 29-30 – Janesville Beloit Kennel Club Dog Show (proposed fee \$340); February 10-12 Bob Pucci Military Collectors Show (proposed fee \$1300 plus \$250 clean up deposit); February 14 – Dean George Auction (proposed fee \$410); February 19th – Paige Fischer Craft Fair (proposed fee \$445); March 4-6 Janesville Rifle and Pistol Club Show (proposed fee \$817.50); March 11-13 Belgian Tervuran Dog Show (proposed fee \$975); March 15 – Dean George Auction (proposed fee \$410). Supervisor Sweeney motioned to approve the contracts as presented. Motion seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.

C. Capital Improvement Update: Thompson reported that the Rock County Fair Association and Rock County Pork Producers are partnering to replace the pens in the Swine Barn. The wooden pens will be replaced with modern steel pens. Total replacement cost is \$40,000. Pork Producers are providing the labor.

D. The Phase I water system upgrade will be completed this fall. Thompson indicated that he has purchased the materials and hired Fox Excavating to install the new pipes. In addition the old west bathroom building will be demolished. The building is beyond repair and removal is the most cost effective solution.

7. Agent Report – Sue Fredrich – 4-H Program Advisor

Fredrich provided an update on educational programming for the Rock County 4-H Program. Enrollments are currently being accepted. Based on discussions with Club Chairs and Volunteer leaders, 4-H enrollments are up for 2011. Rock County continues to be a leader in Wisconsin's 4-H program.

Sue has also provided leadership for the Rock County Barn Quilt Project. To date, 61 barn quilts have been installed on area barns. The committee is currently developing information and history on various barns that will be used for future tours.

Fredrich reminded committee members of the upcoming Children's Christmas Benefit in Orfordville on Saturday, December 4th. The 4-H Junior Council is involved in the program. The Benefit is organized by Supervisor Brian Knudson. Last year over 200 rural families were assisted during the holiday season with food, clothing and gifts.

8. Update on Rock County Horticulture Position: Thompson announced that partnership with Rotary Gardens, UW Extension and Rock County will terminate as of December 31, 2010. Rotary Gardens had been providing 50% funding for the Horticulture position. Fiscal issues at the garden and other concerns resulted in the mutual agreement to terminate the partnership. Extension will continue to partner with Rotary Gardens in future educational programs. Thompson indicated that the change will not impact the County from a budget standpoint. Alternative funding sources will be available to cover 50% funding provided by Rotary Gardens. Horticulture programming conducted by Mike Maddox will remain relatively unchanged.

9. Department Update:

Thompson reported that the application deadline for the .4 FTE backfill position for the Family Living Educator will close on November 30th. Final interviews will be held with the committee in January. Currently, there are 6-8 applicants.

10. Comments from the Committee: Supervisor Sweeney announced that the PACE Adhoc Committee has unanimously approved the PACE Program as developed. The proposal will be presented to the County board in December.

11. 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 8:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Randy Thompson