

MINUTES
ROCK COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 9, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
2nd floor Conference Room
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 Vice Chair Eva Arnold at 7:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Supervisors Arnold, Supervisor Combs, Supervisor Sweeney, and Supervisor Wiedenfeld. (Supervisor Bostwick arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

Others present: Randy Thompson, Rock County U W Extension Department Head, Donna Duerst, 4-H Youth Development Agent, Brian Benzow, DNR.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Combs moved to approve the agenda as printed. Motion seconded by Supervisor Wiedenfeld. Motion carried.

3. **Approval of Minutes- August 12, 2009:** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the minutes of August 12, 2009. Motion seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.

4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements** – Supervisor Sweeney indicated that Neil Deupree will be making telephone calls to County Board Supervisors urging board members to not support using ACT funds for 2010 budget.

5. **Approval of Bills/Transfers and Amending Encumbrances:** Chair Bostwick arrived at 7:05 p.m. Randy Thompson reviewed the Department bills and discussed the increase in the encumbrance of \$2,500 for Manpower from the Fairgrounds R and M Labor Account. The fairgrounds Maintenance staff is hired through Manpower. Supervisor Arnold moved to approve the bills as presented. Supervisor Sweeney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. **Update on County Farm Goose Hunting Program:** Brian Buenzow, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provided an update on the Goose Reduction Program at the county farm. Mr. Benzow and Larry Juhl supervise the Goose Hunt Program. This program is in conjunction with the City of Janesville's efforts to reduce the resident goose population. The season started on September 1st. Benzow indicated that members of the public interested in participating may contact either Larry Juhl or himself. The goose population is substantially lower than past years. He anticipates 100 geese will be harvested the County Farm this fall.

7. **Agent Report:** Donna Duerst, 4-H Youth Development Agent. Duerst provided an update on summer youth development programs. Duerst also discussed the 4-H Afterschool Program which is starting with the new school year. The Afterschool Program is expanding to new schools within Janesville, Beloit, and possibly Evansville.

8. **Discussion of 2010 Budget Proposal:** Randy Thompson presented a summary of the 2010 Budget Proposal submitted to Administration. The UW Extension proposal includes a 1.6% decrease resulting from salary savings from the mandatory state furloughs. Professional staff will see a 3.065% decrease due to the required 8 furlough days in 2010. In addition, 2% salary increases deferred to June 2009 from July 1, 2009 were rescinded. Thompson indicated that the 4-H Fairgrounds Budget Proposal will have a zero impact on the 2010 tax levy. One time payments from co-locators on the T-Mobile Cell tower will be used to offset operational costs. Cell tower rental income will be used for capital improvement projects. The result is a tax levy savings of \$28,000.
9. **Review and Discussion of Rock County Farm Crop Land Lease Agreement for 2010-2012:** Thompson reviewed the contract to be used for the Crop Land Lease. Request for proposals will go out later this week and will be due on September 29th. Bid approval will take place at the October Committee meeting and forwarded to the County Board on October 22nd. Thompson indicated that he expects greater interest than was seen in 2006.
10. **Discussion and Approval of Fairgrounds Rental Rates for 2010:** Thompson recommended a modest 5% increase in fairgrounds rental rates for 2010 and a \$5.00 increase in the daily heat surcharge. A motion was made by Supervisor Combs and seconded by Supervisor Sweeney to approve the 5% increase and \$5.00 heat surcharge increase. Motion carried. The rates will be effective on January 1, 2010.
11. **4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts:** Thompson presented two contracts for the 4-H Fairgrounds including October 16th – Craig FFA Alumni – Runde Family Benefit (proposed fee – no charge) and November 21st – Echo Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution (proposed fee – no charge) A motion to approve the contracts was made by Supervisor Arnold and seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.

Thompson indicated that Craig Center Lighting Project has not been completed. CAP Electric is waiting on approval from Focus on Energy. The County will receive an estimated \$1,600 rebate for installing the new energy efficient lighting. The net cost for the project will be less than \$4,000 with the rebate. Payback for installing the lights is less than three years with the anticipated reduced electrical costs.

12. **Comments from the Committee:** Supervisor Wiedenfeld reported on his attendance at the summer District 2 EACEC meeting held in Columbia county. The program was interesting and he encouraged supervisors to attend in future years. The program included a tour of the UW Arlington Research Farm.
13. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Wiedenfeld and seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Randy Thompson, Office Chair