

MINUTES
ROCK COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 14, 2011
2nd Floor Courthouse Conference Center
Janesville WI

1. **Call to Order:** The September 14th, 2011 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, Supervisor Wiedenfeld. Supervisor Bostwick arrived at 7:10 p.m.
Others present: Randy Thompson, UWEX Department Head, Jim Stute, Cristina Parente, UWEX Staff, Bob Arndt, Fair Association President, Mike Larson and John Morning.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Supervisor Combs and seconded by Supervisor Wiedenfeld to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
3. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** Mike Larson and John Morning representing the Southern Wisconsin Ag Group (SWAG) briefly discussed the group's initiative.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of July 6th, July 13th and August 10th, 2011 were reviewed. Supervisor Wiedenfeld pointed out a spelling error in July 13th minutes under Agent Report. Supervisor Sweeney moved the approval of the minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.
5. **4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance & Contracts:**
 - A. 4-H Fair Association Report: Bob Arndt provided an update on the 2011 Rock County 4-H Fair. Attendance was down slightly compared to 2010. Overall the fair was a success. Arndt reported that he received many positive comments from the public on the recent fairgrounds improvements. He thanked the committee and County Board for their ongoing support. Thompson indicated that over \$80,000 in improvements to the grounds were financed by the Fair Association and Rock County Beef and Pork Producer organizations. The upkeep and improvements of the fairgrounds has been a partnership of various groups and organizations.
 - B. Approval of Contracts: Thompson presented two contracts for committee approval. The rental contracts included: November 27- Wisconsin Satin Breeders Rabbit Show (fee \$275 plus \$65 heat surcharge); December 31st – WI-IL Rabbit Breeders Show (fee of \$600 including heat surcharge.)

A motion to approve the rental contracts and proposed fees was made by Supervisor Combs and seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. Motion carried.

C. **Discussion and Approval of 2012 Fairgrounds Rental Fees:** Thompson recommended a 5% rate increase in rental fees for 2012. A 5% rate increase has been approved each of the last three years. The modest increase offsets operational cost increases. A motion was made by Supervisor Arnold and seconded by Supervisor Wiedenfeld to approve the 5% rate increase effective January 1, 2012. Motion carried.

D. **Discussion of "No Smoking" Signage at Fairgrounds.** Thompson was instructed to improve the "No Smoking" signage for buildings at the Fairgrounds including the various barns.

6. **Approval of Extension Bills/transfers/Encumbrances** – Thompson reviewed the Extension Bills and Transfers. A motion to approve the bills and transfers was made by Supervisor Arnold and seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. Motion carried.

7. **Agent Report**

Thompson introduced Cristina Parente who started July 1, 2011 as a 40% backfill for Angela Flickinger. Parente discussed programming emphasis for her position. Parent will be focusing in Family Financial Management and Child Care/Child Development education. Parente is working two days per week and compliments Flickinger's Health Education focus in Family Living Programs.

8. **Approval of 2011-2012-133 Contract with University of Wisconsin-Extension:**

Thompson reviewed the 133 Contract with the University which covers the county's 40% share of professional staff salaries and fringe benefits. The contract reflects a reduction with elimination of the .4 FTE 4-H Program Assistant. A motion to approve the 133 Contract was made by Supervisor Sweeney and seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.

9. **Discussion of 2012 UWEX Budget Proposal:** Thompson reviewed the UWEX Budget Proposal presented to County Administration. The budget reflects the elimination of 1.1 FTE's professional staffing in 2012. The proposal includes an overall decrease of 1.87% from the 2011 approved budget. The overall budget was developed taking into account fiscal challenges faced by the county.

10. **WACEC District 2 Meeting**

The Fall District 2 Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2011 in Grant County. Thompson requested committee members register by September 26th.

11. **Comments from the Committee – None**
12. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Sweeney and seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Randy Thompson
UWEX Department Head