

Minutes
Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
Wednesday, January 11, 2012
2nd Floor Courthouse Conference Room
Rock County Courthouse
Janesville, WI

Unapproved

1. **Call to Order:** The January 11, 2012 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: Supervisors Arnold, Bostwick, Combs, Sweeney and Wiedenfeld.

Staff Present: Randy Thompson, Jim Stute, Angie Flickinger and Cristina Parente.

Others Present: Chris Rasmussen, Beloit Memorial High School.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Item 5d deleted. Motion to approve the agenda as revised by Combs, second by Sweeney, motion carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of December 14, 2011 were reviewed. Bostwick noted that ECHO should be capitalized. Motion to approve as corrected by Combs, second by Sweeney, motion carried.
4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** None.
5. **4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts**
 - A. **4-H Fair Association Report:** no report

B. Review and Approval of 2012 Working Agreement with the Rock County Fair

Association: Thompson reviewed the agreement and stated that it's basically the same as previous years except contains changes related to the County's concealed carry ordinance. The Fair Board will have control of the facility from July 1 through August 3 and will pay for labor and utilities for that time. Under the concealed carry ordinance, the board has the option to not allow weapons on the grounds during the fair. This provision of the agreement has been reviewed by County Corporation Council and approved by County Administration. The Fair Board will discuss the issue at their January meeting. Motion to approve by Sweeney, second by Combs, motion carried.

C. Discussion and Approval of Purchase of Snow Blade Attachment for Bobcat Skid

Loader: Thompson requested permission to purchase a snow blade for the Fairgrounds Bobcat, using \$2,500 of Capital Improvement funds. The bobcat is owned by the County, was purchased by the Rock County 4-H Fair Board and sold to the county for \$1. The County is responsible for snow removal on the grounds and this is an alternative to repairing the current plow truck which is in poor condition. The county sought bids for the purchase, which has been approved by County Administrator Knutson, pending committee approval. Motion to authorize the purchase by Arnold, second by Sweeney, motion carried.

E. Approval of Rental Contracts: 2/20 Badger State Auction, Craig Center, \$430; 2/27 Badger State Auction, Craig Center, \$430; 4/1 Curt Watson Club Barrow Sale, Sales Arena, \$400. Motion to approve by Combs, second by Sweeney, motion carried.

Thompson reported that he met with Rock County Administration to finalize details of fairgrounds management for 2012. He thanked the committee for the honor and privilege of working for Rock County UW-Extension over the past 21 years. The committee expressed their gratitude for his dedicated service.

6. **Approval of Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Stute reviewed the department bills and encumbrances. Motion to approve as presented by Sweeney, second by Arnold, motion carried.
7. **Agent Report:** Angie Flickinger and Cristina Parente reported on recent Family Living programming efforts. Flickinger led establishment of the Clinton Change Club who works for community wellness at both educational and policy levels. This effort is featured in a video produced by Tufts University, which includes the work of Dr. Mariam Nelson with the group. The Strong Women program is well established in Rock County and she is investigating ways to allow the private sector to take it over. She is the state-wide specialist in the Strong Women program, has trained 63 leaders who in turn have offered 182 sessions (2,121 classes total) which have reached 86,265 participants.

Parente discussed her efforts in health education, childcare training and financial education. She is developing Spanish language versions of the of the various Health Education curriculum and is working with Head Start on some of this effort. Her efforts in financial management included a needs assessment which identified one-on-one counseling as the most effective delivery tool. Her work with the veterans group at RVCP has focused on consumer protection. She is working on in-home daycare for Spanish speaking audiences, trying to get providers certified which allows for capturing Federal benefits.

8. **Department Staffing Updates:** Stute reported that the 4-H Club Advisor position has been approved for filing at the State level as an interim position, which will be posted in February. The Department is working on the position description for the Administrative Assistant position which will be open when Judy Horvath retires on March 2.
9. **Resolution to Recognize Judy Horvath:** Stute presented the county resolution recognizing Judy Horvath for her service to Rock County and UW-Extension. Motion to approve by Wiedenfeld, second by Arnold, motion carried.
10. **Semi-annual Conference Travel Report:** Stute presented the written report which was filed with County Administration. No UW-Extension staff participated in events whose expenses exceeded \$1,000 from July 1 to December 31, 2011. He noted that travel expenses of this nature are covered by the state.
11. **County Farm Land Use Policy:** Stute outlined the need for a policy to protect the County from liability related to use of county farm property. Currently, all users of the farm waive County liability except the RECAP garden, managed by the Sheriff's Department. The project formerly involved UW-Extension but that relationship ended for 2012. Current volunteers failed to sign volunteer agreements in 2011, leaving the County and UW-Extension liable for all claims due to personal injury. The volunteer agreement waives institutional liability and is required by UW-Extension for all volunteers. Stute noted that many of the activities of RECAP volunteers at the farm are unsupervised by UW-Extension and involve risk for personal injury. The committee instructed Stute to secure the farm shop to prevent unauthorized entry and use of electricity, and

also to develop contract language for the RECAP garden which would specify allowed activities and places liability for all activities on the Sheriff's Department.

12. Comments from the Committee: None

13. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Combs, seconded Arnold, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James K. Stute