

Agriculture & Education Committee
UW-Madison Division of Extension
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Agriculture & Extension Education Committee
Wednesday, October 14, 2020
UW Extension
Teleconference

Unapproved Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Chair Bostwick, Supervisor Sweeney (7:28 p.m.), Supervisor Davis, Supervisor Aegerter, Supervisor Lokrantz

Committee Members Absent:

None

Staff Members Present:

Christine Wen, Erin Conway, Laura Vander Veen, Tara Hanley, Brent Sutherland, Terri Carlson

Others Present:

Fair Board President Ryan George, Vince Davis

1. Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.
2. Adoption of Agenda: Supervisor Davis moved approval of the agenda for October 14, 2020 second by Supervisor Lokrantz. ADOPTED.
3. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2020: Supervisor Lokrantz moved to approve September 9, 2020 minutes, second by Supervisor Davis. ADOPTED
4. Citizen Participation, Communication and Announcements
Ms. Hanley noted there were no public comments submitted for the meeting.

Extension:

5. Review of Extension Bills
Reviewed.
6. Semi-Annual Training Report
Reviewed.
7. 2021 Extension Contract – Discussion & Possible Action
Ms. Stated highlighted the contract changes from last year. Supervisor Davis wondered if the 2nd invoice of 2020 has been received from the State. Ms. Wen

stated it was delayed due to furloughs and would be coming soon. Supervisor Aegerter motioned to approve the contract and send through the County contract approval process. Second by Supervisor Davis. ADOPTED

8. Agriculture Educator Position Update

Ms. Wen informed the Committee that Nick Baker's last official day would be in December. Until then, he will assist to tie up loose ends at the County Farm. Ms. Wen expressed the State's support of the County Farm and agreement of the importance of the Ag Educator position in relation to it. Supervisor Sweeney stated that after a conversation discussing the future of the County Farm, he believes it is going in the right direction. Supervisor Davis requested the most recent impact statement. Ms. Wen will look into getting that.

Vince Davis addressed the Committee as a prior Weed Science Specialist for UW and current BASF employee since 2015 and summarized his research experience at the County Farm. He expressed appreciation of the farm. Supervisor Sweeney stated it would be beneficial to have Mr Davis' involvement in discussions of future support of the farm. Mr. Davis suggested using that as an opportunity for others in the industry to get involved as well. Supervisor Davis agrees with Mr. Davis and Supervisor Sweeney.

9. Review & Discussion of the 2021 Recommended Budget

Ms. Wen stated Extension's 2021 budget requests were status quo from 2020. There were no recommended cuts from the County Administrator. No questions from the Committee.

Fairgrounds:

10. Review of Fairgrounds Maintenance Bills and Contracts
Reviewed

11. Fairgrounds

a.) Fairground Maintenance

Mr. Sutherland provided a description of the photos presented to the Committee of some the recent maintenance projects being completed at the Fairgrounds and commended Bruce Stone for his contributions.

b.) Review and Discussion of 2021 Recommended Budget, Budget Requests

Mr. Sutherland stated the 2021 budget requests for the Fairgrounds were pretty straightforward and most of it was utilities. He reviewed the 5 capital projects planned for 2021. Mr. George questioned the status of grandstand replacements. Mr. Sutherland said that is still moving forward within the County Masterplan.

12. Fair Board Report

Mr. George expressed his thanks to Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Froeber for the work they've done at the Fairgrounds. He noted the electrical upgrades will be a tremendous help during the fair.

Mr. George noted the need for the Committee's continued support being important to the future of the fair after this difficult year. Mr. Sutherland stated he

anticipates the additional maintenance costs payed by the Fair Board will not be necessary going forward.

13. Comments from the Committee

None.

14. Adjournment

Supervisor Sweeney moved to adjourn at 8:19 p.m., second by Supervisor Davis.

ADOPTED

Tara Hanley

Rock County UW Extension Administrative Services Coordinator

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