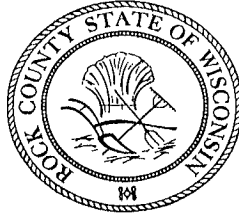


Agriculture & Education Committee
UW-Extension
51 S. Main Street
Janesville, WI 53545
Phone: (608) 757-5696
Fax: (608) 757-5581
www.co.rock.wi.us



Agriculture & Extension Education Committee
Wednesday, July 11, 2018
Rock County Courthouse
Courthouse Conference Center, 2nd Floor
51 S. Main St., Janesville, WI 53545

Unapproved Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Chair Bostwick, Supervisor Driscoll, Supervisor Sweeney, Supervisor Davis, Supervisor Aegerter

Committee Members Absent:

None

Staff Members Present:

Chrissy Wen, Nick Baker, Laura Vander Veen, Nancy Brooks, Tara Hanley, and Brent Sutherland

Others Present:

Randy Thompson

1. Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Driscoll moved approval of the agenda for July 11, 2018, second by Supervisor Aegerter. ADOPTED
3. Approval of minutes from June 13, 2018: Supervisor Driscoll moved approval of June 13, 2018 minutes, second by Supervisor Aegerter. ADOPTED
4. Citizen Participation, Communication and Announcements
Supervisor Davis wanted to make sure everyone got the Farm Bureau cancellation notice for Meyer's.

UW-Extension:

5. Rock County UW-Extension staff and program updates

a. Statewide Situational Needs Assessment Discussion – Chrissy Wen, Area 19 Director

Ms. Wen explained that Cooperative Extension is completing a Statewide Situational Needs Assessment to seek out the strengths and needs of counties, especially themes occurring in multiple counties or items of high priority. Ms. Wen stated she will also be having this same discussion with the County Administrator next week. The committee discussed the County's top strengths and needs and Ms. Wen will forward that info on in her report due the beginning of August.

b. Positive Youth Development Report – Nancy Brooks

Nancy Brooks summarized her report identifying strengths and challenges of Rock County youth and families. Interviews were conducted with community partners and questions were asked based on an ecological model of three levels. She noted a major challenge that was expressed by most partners she talked to was poverty, while one of the greatest strengths was family support from the community (looking out for one another). She also noted high praise for service providers but there was a great need for more of them. Ms. Brooks explained her report was just one piece of information in a large pot of Extension's ongoing assessment.

c. Future Staffing and Program Needs – Chrissy Wen, Area 19 Director

Ms. Wen directed the Committee to the provided costing sheet analysis for a county funded 4-H Coordinator vs. Positive Youth Development Educator in response to discussions at the last meeting.

Laura Vanderveen, 4-H Program Coordinator, described to the Committee what she's been focusing on in 4-H and her goals for programming. She emphasized the size of Rock County's 4-H populations (largest in the state) and how it would greatly benefit the program to have a Coordinator/Educator vacancy filled.

Chair Bostwick questioned the state's status on filling the 4-H position. Ms. Wen stated Extension is currently at funding capacity for FTE positions that the budget can support. Chair Bostwick wondered what that meant for the vacant Horticulture position? Ms. Wen did not have information on the status of the Horticulture vacancy. The Committee expressed concern what message a lengthy position vacancy would send to the State and what future State support would be if the County started fully funding positions. Discussion ensued. Chair Bostwick supports lobbying for filling the 4-H/Youth Development position and stated it will need to be brought forth to Josh Smith and County Board.

d. Farm Update

Mr. Baker is hosting and/or speaking at two field days tomorrow, July 12th. He mentioned the new shed is a work in progress and completion deadline was 10 days ago. There were multiple issues with the sub-contractor that are being worked through.

Mr. Baker stated the Farm Lease is up after this year and is looking for any input from the Committee on changes to the next Lease Agreement that may need to be made. He noted the BASF is happy with their research plots and that's a positive thing for the Farm.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on UW Extension Office Move

Supervisor Driscoll moved approval of the Extension office move, second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED

Brent Sutherland, Facilities Management Director, explained the timeline of events and benefits to the County for moving the Extension office to the vacant Adolescent Service Center on Highway 51 near the Health Department. He hopes to have the building ready to occupy in October since Facilities Management staff is doing much of the renovating.

Supervisor Sweeney felt it's a good location for the department. He questioned what security measures are being discussed? Mr. Sutherland stated security is a priority in all of the County buildings, but there's no decisions yet what that will look like for this particular building (keycode, card access, cameras, etc.)

Mr. Sutherland invited Committee members to come tour the new building. It was suggested having future meetings at both the farm shed (upon completion) and the new building when it's closer to completion.

7. Review of Payments

Accepted.

Fairgrounds:

8. Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts

Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve fairground contracts, second by Supervisor Driscoll. APPROVED

9. Fairgrounds

a. Discussion and possible action on long-term planning

No new information regarding the Countywide Master Plan. Mr. Sutherland hopes to share an updated status at the next meeting. Supervisor Sweeney stated American Tower is wishing to modify the cell tower lease. Discussion ensued.

b. Discussion and possible action on agreement with Farm Bureau

Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve agreement with Farm Bureau, second by Supervisor Aegerter. ADOPTED

c. Discussion and possible action on Rock County 4-H Fairgrounds Mutual Working Agreement
No new information.

10. Fair Board Report

No report – Fair is two weeks away.

11. Comments from the Committee

None

12. Adjournment

Supervisor Davis moved to adjourn at 8:46 p.m., second by Supervisor Aegerter.

ADOPTED

Tara Hanley
Rock County UW Extension Office Coordinator

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE