

Minutes
Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
Wednesday, December 14, 2011
2nd Floor Courthouse Conference Room
Rock County Courthouse
Janesville, WI

1. **Call to Order:** The December 14, 2011 meeting of the Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order by Chair Richard Bostwick at 7:14 p.m.

Committee members Present: Supervisor Combs, Supervisor Bostwick, Supervisor Sweeney.

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Arnold, Supervisor Wiedenfeld.

Others Present: Randy Thompson, Jim Stute, and Rob McDonnell, Fair Association President.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Supervisor Combs and seconded by Supervisor Sweeney to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** (November 2, 2011) The minutes of November 2, 2011 were reviewed. Supervisor Bostwick noted that the minutes should reflect that Supervisor Combs was absent. A motion to approve the minutes of November 2, 2011 as corrected was made by Supervisor Sweeney and seconded by Supervisor Bostwick. Motion carried.
4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** None.

5. **4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts**

A. 4-H Fair Association Report: Thompson introduced Rob McConnell who was elected president of the Fair Association at the recent Annual Meeting. Rob has served on the Fair Board for the past three years. He replaces Bob Arndt who didn't run for re-election. Rob looks forward to working with the committee and maintaining the strong partnership that Bob developed over the past two years. Rob currently serves as President of the Clinton School Board. Education is near and dear to Rob so he looks forward to continuing the great working relationship with Extension. The Fair Board is currently planning for the 2012 Fair. Main State entertainment should be signed in the next few weeks.

B. Approval of Fairgrounds Rental Contracts: Thompson presented rental contracts for committee approval: The contracts included the following: 1/24-Dean George Auction Service (fee \$430), 2/14 – Dean George Auction Service (fee \$430), 3/17 Craig FFA Career Development Day (no charge); 3/20 Dean George Auction (fee \$430), 6/1- Rock County Career Coalition (fee \$275); 6/13- Rock County Pork Producers Porkfest (fee \$275), 8/16 Rock County Beef Producers Cookout (fee \$275), 8/25 Rock Prairie Master Gardeners Garden Fest (fee \$275); 9/15 Rock Valley Wood Carvers (fee \$275); 10/5-7 Janesville Rifle and Pistol Club (fee \$825); 10/13 – Cargill Methodist Church Craft Fair (fee \$275); 11/25 – Wisconsin Satin Rabbit Breeders Show (fee \$340).

A motion to approve the rentals and fees as presented was made by Supervisor Combs and seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. Motion carried.

Thompson requested approval for Echo to utilize the Craig Center the last Wednesday of the month for the 2nd Harvest Food Distribution (no charge). Motion to approve by Supervisor Sweeney and seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.

Thompson reported that the Sheriff's Department will utilize the Craig Center for Training Programs (18 days during March, April and May). No charge to the Sheriff's Department.

Finally, Thompson informed the committee that he agreed to provide winter storage for tractors and mowers for the Public Works Department. Mr Coopman agreed to provide blacktop repair on the fairgrounds in the spring (no charge) in return for the winter storage.

C. Discussion of Fairgrounds Administrative Responsibilities: Thompson asked the committee for feedback on responsibilities provided at the November meeting. Thompson will meet with Mr. Knutson after January 1st to develop written responsibilities for administration of the Fairgrounds. Thompson indicated that he is willing to continue handling the administrative duties in 2012 following his retirement. Committee went on record supporting Mr. Thompson's continued administrative role with the Fairgrounds.

6. Approval of Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances: Randy Thompson reviewed the department bills and encumbrances. A motion to approve the bills/encumbrances as presented was made by Supervisor Sweeney and seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.

7. Agent Report

Jim Stute, Crops and Soils Educator presented a year end discussion of research conducted at the Rock County Farm. Stute has working relationships with a variety of researchers from UW Madison. Research trials include corn and soybean variety trials, cover crop research, Corn Herbicide Treatments and bio-mass research trials

8. Discussion and Approval of 2012 Department Head Appointment. Thompson presented the Department Head recommendation from interim District Director Matt Hanson. Hanson recommended Jim Stute be appointed Department Head effective January 1st, 2012 and Mike Maddox assume the co-department head role effective July 1, 2012. A motion to approve the appointments was made by Supervisor Sweeney and seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.

9. Department Staffing Updates: Thompson reported that the state is holding off on refilling Sue Fredrich's position at the present time. Fredrich will retire on December 30th, 2011. Position may be filled in mid 2012. The Horticulture Educator position will be Full Time effective July 1, 2012. Thompson's position and the 4-H Program Assistant Positions will not be replaced due to budgetary issues.

10. Comments from the Committee: NONE

10. Adjourn: There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Combs and seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Randy Thompson