

Minutes
Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
Wednesday, November 2, 2011
Land Conservation Department
440 N U S Highway 14
Janesville, WI

1. **Call to Order:** The November 2, 2011 meeting of the Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order by Chair Richard Bostwick at 8:15 p.m.

Committee members present: Supervisor Arnold, Supervisor Bostwick, Supervisor Sweeney, Supervisor Wiedenfeld.

Committee Members Present: Supervisor Combs.

Others Present: Randy Thompson, Department Head, Donna Duerst, Bob Arndt, Fair Association President and Tom Sweeney, County Conservationist.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Supervisor Sweeney and seconded by Supervisor Arnold to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** (October 12, 2011) The minutes of October 12, 2011 were reviewed. A motion was made by Supervisor Sweeney to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** None.
5. **4-H Fairgrounds Maintenance and Contracts**

A. 4-H Fair Association Report: Bob Arndt, Fair Association President, expressed his appreciation for the committee's support the past two years. He praised the Rock County 4-H Program. Mr. Arndt indicated that his term is up on November 16. He indicated that he likely will not run for a second term.

Chair Bostwick, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Arndt for his leadership. He also expressed appreciation for Arndt's efforts to improve communication between the Fair Board and Ag Committee.

Supervisor Sweeney thanked Mr. Arndt for his commitment to the 4-H Fair and Youth of Rock County. If he chooses not to run for re-election, his leadership will be missed.

B. Approval of Fairgrounds Rental Contracts: Thompson presented rental contracts for committee approval: The contracts included the following: 1/14-Paige Fisher Mega Sale (Fee \$465); 1/17 – Dean George Auction (Fee - \$430); 1/19-1/21 – Take a Kid Hunting – Bob Pucci (Fee - \$1,610); 1/29 –Janesville/Beloit Kennel Club Dog Show (Fee \$355); 2/9-2/11 – Badger Military Show (Fee \$1,145); 2/18 – Paige Fisher Mega Sale (Fee \$465); 2/25 Rock County Beef/Pork Annual Meeting (No Charge); 3/2-3/4 – Janesville Rifle/Pistol Club Gun Show (Fee \$887.50); 3/9-3/11 Badger Tervuren Dog Show (Fee - \$1,065); 3/31 Paige Fisher Mega Sale (Fee \$465); 4/7 Warren Loofboro Club Barrow Sale (Fee \$400); 4/28 Paige Fisher Mega Sale (Fee \$460); 5/20 George Carlin Circus (Fee \$1,100); 5/26 – WI-IL Dairy Goat Show (Fee \$290). Rentals total \$9,077.50.

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

C. Discussion of Fairgrounds Management Responsibilities: Thompson presented a list of Fairgrounds Administrative responsibilities. He requested the committee review the document prior to the December meeting. Thompson would like to have committee approval of the responsibilities since in mid 2012 Administration of the Fairgrounds will be handled by a private individual as proposed in the 2012 County Budget upon Thompson's retirement. Craig Knutson's budget recommendation includes funds to support hiring an individual on a limited basis. The change is being proposed due to Extension staffing reductions. In the past the Extension Department Head responsibilities included Fairgrounds management.

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

7. Agent Report

Donna Duerst, 4-H Youth Development Agent gave a report of 4-H/Youth Development Programs. Duerst reviewed the recently completed 4-H Program Assessment. The loss of the 4-H Program assistant position and the uncertainty about refilling the 4-H Program Advisor position upon Sue Fredrich's retirement will require changes to the 4-H Youth Development Program. Program volunteers may have to take on responsibilities formally handled by staff.

8. 2012 Budget Discussion

Thompson briefly reviewed Administration's recommended 2012 budget. The Extension budget includes a 3% decrease as expected. Thompson expressed appreciation for Mr. Knutson's recommendation to consolidate the .4 and .5 support staff positions as requested. Combining the two part time positions will increase office efficiency.

9. Comments from Committee - None

10. Adjourn: There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Arnold and seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Randy Thompson