

Minutes
Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
Wednesday, October 12, 2011
2nd Floor Courthouse Conference Center
Rock County Courthouse
Janesville, WI

1. **Call to Order:** The October 12, 2011 meeting of the Rock County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order by Vice Chair Eva Arnold at 7:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Supervisor Arnold, Supervisor Combs, Supervisor Sweeney, Supervisor Wiedenfeld and Supervisor Bostwick (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)

Staff Present: Randy Thompson, UWEX Department Head, Mary Krisco, WNEP Coordinator.

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:** (September 14, 2011) The minutes of September 14, 2011 were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as printed was made by Supervisor Wiedenfeld and seconded by Supervisor Wiedenfeld and seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.
4. **Citizen Participation, Information and Announcements:** None.

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

- A. **4-H Fair Association Report** – Thompson indicated that Bob Arndt, President Rock County Fair Association was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Arndt requested that the Ag Committee be invited to attend the Fair Association Annual meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16th, 7:00 p.m. at the Craig Center. Officers up for election include the President and Secretary. In addition, three director's positions will be up for election.

- B. **Approval of 4-H Fairgrounds Rental Contracts:** Thompson reported that rental contracts for the remainder of 2011 have already been approved. A special request has come from Randy Benish. A new church congregation is looking for temporary facilities for Sunday services. He indicated that they have limited financial resources. A motion was made by Supervisor Wiedenfeld and seconded by Supervisor Combs to charge a fee of \$125 plus the \$65.00 heat surcharge for use of the Craig Center on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The group would also have to agree to being bumped if there was a full weekend rental event. Motion carried – 3 ayes and 2 no's.
Supervisor Sweeney motioned to approve the contracts as presented. Motion seconded by Supervisor Combs. Motion carried.

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

7. Agent Report – Mary Krisco – WNEP Coordinator

Mary Krisco, WNEP Coordinator reported on educational programs and activities for the Nutrition Education Program. The WNEP Program is funded specifically through USDA grant funds. The program brings in over \$600,000 in federal grant funds to support nutrition education. To date, the WNEP staff has made over 37,000 educational contacts in 2011. Educational programs target low income families throughout Rock County. The Rock County WNEP “Time for Parents” also receives \$50,000 in funding from the Wisconsin Home Visitation Development Grant.

8. WACEC District 2 Fall Meeting: Supervisor Wiedenfeld gave a brief report on the District 2 WACEC meeting held in Grant County. The program featured several tours and presentations by Grant County UWEX staff. Dean Richard Klemme presented state and federal funding challenges for UW Extensions.

9. Department Update:

Thompson informed the committee that approximately two acres of corn was destroyed for the Rock Haven site preparation. The value of the corn lost will be deducted from Badgerland Grain Farm’s second rental installment for 2011. County Administration has agreed to reimburse the farm account for the loss (approximately \$2,000) from the Rock Haven building fund.

Thompson also indicated that an access point along the east fence line would need to be made to allow access to the crop land east of the Rock Haven building project. The field is currently land locked due to the construction. Cost of the excavation will be absorbed by the Rock Haven building project. The cost is estimated at \$2,500.

Thompson gave a brief report on the professional staffing plan. The 2011 County budget include a 1.1 FTE reduction in staffing. Currently, the state UW Extension has not approved the proposal to replace the 4-H Program Advisor Position upon Sue Fredrich’s retirement. Additional federal funding cuts may require reevaluation of the Rock County staffing plan.

10. Discussion of November Meeting date: The November Ag and Extension Committee will conflict with the County Board Public Hearing on the 2012 budget set for Wednesday, November 9th. Thompson requested the November meeting be moved to Wednesday, November 2nd following the LCC meeting. Supervisors were asked to check their schedules and confirm their availability on November 2nd.

11. Comments from the Committee: None.

11. 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 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Randy Thompson