

Richland County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2017 - 9:00 a.m.
Room 713, Extension Office, East Hall, UW-Richland

Present: Brewer, Kinney, Marshall, Hady, Wunnicke, Craddock, Lenzendorf, Saxe, and Williamson (by teleconference).

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brewer at 9:00 a.m.
- II. Hady gave proof of notification
- III. Motion by Kinney, seconded by Marshall, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- IV. Minutes approved as published.
- V. Public Input - Richland County Fair was held September 7-10. Committee members shared their impressions that the Fair was well attended and appreciated by the public. Craddock added that many youth participated in the fair exhibits, the new FairEntry online system seemed to go smoothly, and the 4-H Food Stand was another new, successful addition. Hady said the animal exhibits went well and he heard positive things about the new admission costs including the grandstand events.
- VI. Unfinished Business
 - a. nEXT Generation – Craig Saxe, Area Extension Director (AED) said there were no new updates. The process is moving forward with position descriptions being developed and some hiring being planned. Hady relayed that Probationary Faculty in County Educator roles have the option to change their status to Academic Staff before the end of the year. This will allow them to transition to their new roles without a competitive hiring process.
 - b. 2018 UWEX Department Budget – Updated request from the County Board is for all departments to cut 7% from their 2018 county budgets. Discussion was held regarding the 7 different budget scenarios presented by Hady. Motion by Williamson, second by Kinney to move forward with “option 4,” which nets a 5.4% decrease in the County Extension budget by reducing the Family Living position to 80% FTE and the Administrative Secretary to a 20 hours/week position, while reducing some other office and agent expenses. Motion carried. Hady will present this option to the Personnel and Finance Committee on September 22.
 - c. Staff Retreat – Hady reported that the Staff Retreat on Friday, August 18, included tours of Lonesome Stone Milling in Lone Rock and the Randy Schmitz farm in rural Lone Rock. Lonesome Stone owner, Gilbert Williams, shared how local grain growers are being connected to marketing opportunities through their finished products, and possible expansion opportunities. Ryan Schmitz gave the tour and explained the design of the free-stall barn on the Schmitz dairy farm, where the group also observed milking time in the 72 cow rotary parlor. Both agricultural businesses showed great passion and considerable knowledge, which can help Extension make connections to other areas of the county.
- VII. There was no New Business
- VIII. Out of County Requests - Motion by Marshall, seconded by Kinney, to approve out of county requests. Motion carried.
- IX. No purchases over \$1,000.
- X. Office, Agent, Soils, Program and Pesticide accounts – Motion by Kinney, seconded by Williamson, to recommend payment of all accounts. Motion carried.
- XI. Agent Report – Craddock, Interim 4-H Youth Development Educator, explained that the new 4-H year starts in October. Over the past year she has worked to keep older youth engaged in leadership opportunities, including

involving them in officer training; having Teen Teachers (10) at Food, Fun, and Fitness; and 10 youth (9 middle schoolers) attending the statewide youth leadership conference at UW-Madison for 4 days. Looking forward, the new 4-H year includes recruitment of new families. For National 4-H Week there are plans for promotion in the schools and libraries, a “medallion hunt” sponsored on WRCO radio, a road rally, Culver’s Share Night, and a team for the Alzheimer’s Walk on October 1. In response to questions, Craddock added that the Richland Royals club continues this year, there is potential for one new club, and that (across the county) enrollment has been maintained, but they are hoping for growth. She welcomes input from the committee on ways to continue to grow the 4-H program.

XII. Next meeting date is Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 9 a.m.

XIII. Motion to adjourn by Kinney and seconded by Marshall. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by: Chelsea Wunnicke.