

Midway Extension District #15
Ellsworth and Russell Counties
Regular Monthly Meeting – January 11, 2024
6:30 p.m. on Zoom

The regular monthly meeting of the Midway Extension District #15 was held on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom due to weather conditions. Chairman, Gunnar Hays, called the meeting to order. Other board members attending were Marcia Blundon, Jamie Malone, Julie Nienke, Jeff Ochampaugh, Gaylon Walter, and Amy Westerman. Extension agents in attendance were Craig Dinkel, Jessica Kootz, Clinton Laflin, and Karrie Van Winkle. Upcoming new board members Justin Hlaus, Melinda Olson, and Virginia Vetter were also in attendance.

Jeff Ochampaugh moved to amend the agenda by adding discussion of Kaitlin May's resignation to executive session and then approve the agenda. Marcia Blundon seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Amy Westerman moved to accept the Consent Agenda items. Marcia Blundon seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Agents' reports were presented. Marcia Blundon moved we accept the agents' reports. Jamie Malone seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business: - none

New Business:

a) Amy Westerman, Justin Hlaus, Melinda Olson, and Virginia Vetter took the Oath of Office for the 2024 board members.

b) In election of officers:

1. Marcia Blundon nominated Gaylon Walter for chairman and moved that nominations cease. Virginia Vetter seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

2. Amy Westerman nominated Gunnar Hays for vice-chairman. Virginia Vetter seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

3. Julie Nienke nominated Amy Westerman for secretary. Gunnar Hays seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

4. Amy Westerman nominated Julie Nienke for treasurer. Marcia Blundon seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

c) Marcia Blundon moved to have our board meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month in 2024. The times are 7:00 pm for May – October and 6:30 pm for November – April. Amy Westerman seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

d) Jessica Kootz asked that all board members watch the Civil Rights Training video before the next board meeting. Jessica will send out the video.

e) Jessica Kootz presented the current equipment inventory for Midway District. Virginia Vetter moved to approve the inventory as listed. Amy Westerman seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

f) Amy Westerman moved to have Citizens State Bank in Ellsworth as Midway District's funds depository. Marcia Blundon seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

g) Jessica Kootz presented the GAAP Waiver Resolution for Midway Extension District. Marcia Blundon moved to approve the GAAP Waiver Resolution. Virginia Vetter seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

h) Jessica Kootz presented the Memorandum of Understanding for Midway District. Amy Westerman moved to approve the given Memorandum of Understanding. Gaylon Walter seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

i) Gaylon Walter moved to approve the 2024 holiday schedule as presented in our packets. Marcia Blundon seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

j) Marcia Blundon moved to accept Kaitlin May's resignation as office professional. Amy Westerman seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

k) Karrie Van Winkle presented an intent form for Northwest Region 4-H Day Camp Grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. This grant would provide \$1,200 for two single day camps in Ellsworth County and two single day camps in Russell County run by each county's respective Junior Leader's Clubs. All camps would be open to the public. Amy Westerman moved we approve the intent form for the grant. Marcia Blundon seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

l) Karrie Van Winkle provided a list of 4-H Volunteers to be approved which included Janna Nelson from Ellsworth County and Brandi Reinhardt from Russell County. Amy Westerman moved to approve the two 4-H volunteers. Virginia Vetter seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

m) Karrie Van Winkle presented a bill for fair ribbons for the 2024 Ellsworth County Fair and for buyer ribbons for the 2024 Russell County Fair. Fair ribbons purchased for the Ellsworth County Fair will be reimbursed by the Ellsworth County Fair Association. Marcia Blundon moved to approve the bill for the fair and buyer ribbons. Amy Westerman seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

n) Jessica Kootz reported that Midway District was approved for two summer interns with a budget of \$5,000 from May 28, 2024, to August 9, 2024. The interns could be utilized in either the Ellsworth or Russell offices. Gunnar Hays moved to have chairman, Gaylon Walter, sign off on the 2024 Host Site Agreement. Marcia Blundon seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Executive Session:

a) Amy Westerman moved to go into executive session to discuss multiple non-elected personnel for ten minutes with all board members and agents present. Melinda Olson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

As the board resumed open session, Amy Westerman moved to approve Rutika Bhakta, who just completed her 90-day review, to receive a \$350 per month stipend. Marcia Blundon seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Announcements:

The next meeting will be February 8, 2024, at 6:30 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse.

Upcoming KSRE Quarterly Partnership Meetings:

January 25 (Zoom)

April 23 (In – Person)

August 13 (Zoom)

November 9 (In – Person)

2024 Board Member Orientation – February 12, 6:30 pm - Zoom

Justin Hlaus moved to adjourn the meeting. Marcia Blundon seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Gunnar Hays, Chairman

Julie Nienke, Secretary