

MIDWAY EXTENSION DISTRICT #15 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, 6:30 P.M.
RUSSELL COUNTY 4-H BUILDING
702 FAIRWAY DRIVE, RUSSELL, KS 67665

Chairman Galyon Walter called to order the regular monthly meeting of the Midway Extension District #15, on September 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Russell County 4-H Building. There was no Public Comment. Board members present were, Julie Nienke, Justin Hlaus, Marcia Blundon, and Melinda Olson. Gunnar Hays joined by Zoom. Amy Westerman and Virginia Vetter were not present. Agents Jessica Kootz, Clinton Laflin, Craig Dinkel, and Raine Bradshaw were also present.

Melinda Olson moved to approve the Agenda Items with the addition of an item under New Business; “d” Kansas State Fair Issue. Julie Nienke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Julie Nienke moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items, Marcia Blundon Seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The four agents gave their reports. Justin Hlaus moved to approve the Agent Reports, Melinda Olson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Clinton Laflin and Craig Dinkel updated the board on the Water Project goals. They will continue to update the spread sheet pertaining to these goals. Jessica Kootz and Melinda Olson gave updates on the Childcare Initiative, a house has been purchased in Russell to be used as a daycare center. Gift baskets have been delivered to all daycare providers in Russell County, to show the support to the providers. Agents will continue to work to enhance outreach marketing to non-extension users.

Clinton Laflin updated the board on the district’s website. He is working on several items to be updated and asked for suggestions of things to add to the website. Raine Bradshaw reported that the 4-H Facebook page had 7400 views this past month. The traffic consists of 86% female and 14% male. Gaylon Waltor noted that our goal is to get new users to the website and Facebook.

Item ‘c’ under New Business “2026 Budget” was addressed during the budget hearing.

New Business

Marcia Blundon moved to approve the purchase of a “4-H Beyond Ready” eight foot back drop for \$349.95 plus shipping not to exceed \$400.00, Justin Hlaus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Melinda Olson moved to approve the purchase of a Dell Pro 17 PC16250 laptop for agent Craig Dinkel. The purchase price not to exceed \$1,180.00, Justin Hlad seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Marcia Blundon moved to approve the Big Creek 4-H Fill the Freezer Fundraiser, Julie Nienke seconded. Motion Carried unanimously.

Rain Bradshaw discussed an issue that happened at the Kansas Sate Fair. An Ellsworth county 4-H member had an expense item stolen from display at the fair. A police report has been filed and State 4-H and the State Fair have posted on Facebook with hopes it will be shared often and the item recovered.

Julie Nienke moved to go into Executive Session with the board and Director Clinton Laflin, for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel matters, Justin Hlaus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

After 10 minutes the board returned to open session.

Melinda Olson moved to go into Executive Session with the board and Director Clinton Laflin, for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel matters, Marcia Blundon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

After 5 minutes the board returned to open session.

Melinda Olson moved to go into Executive Session with the board, Director Clinton Laflin, and agent Raine Bradshaw, for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel matters, Justin Hlaus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

After 5 minutes the board returned to open session. No action was taken.

The next monthly meeting will be held on October 9, 2025, at the Ellsworth County Courthouse at 6:30 p.m.

Kansas State Research and Extension Quarterly Partnership will be November 13, 2025

Midway Extension District #

Gaylon Walton, Chairman

Marcia Blundon, Acting Secretary