

**Midway Extension District #15**  
**February 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes**  
**Ellsworth County Courthouse, 6:00pm**

The regular monthly meeting of the Midway Extension District board meeting was called to order by President Mariana Kinnard on February 12, 2026, at 6:00pm. Board members present were Erin Cook, Justin Hlaus, Melinda Olson, Chadd Stevenson, Daron Stevenson, Virginia Vetter, and Amy Westerman. Agents Raine Bradshaw, Craig Dinkel, and Jessica Kootz were present.

Amy Westerman moved to approve the agenda with the addition of new New Business Item C for EID tags discussion, Virginia Vetter seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Virginia Vetter moved to approve the consent agenda items. Amy Westerman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agents presented monthly reports. In committee reports, Erin Cook presented on the January 2026 KSRE Partnership Meeting.

In unfinished business, staff reported on the ongoing Ellsworth County Office Location discussion. Craig Dinkel, Jessica Kootz and Daron Stevenson have been attending Ellsworth County Commissioner meetings and plans are still not finalized. Construction plans are to potentially begin work in 3 months and to be finished in 6-7 months.

Craig Dinkel issued reminders to all board members to complete Midway Board Training online.

Agents reported on current Midway District inventory and old equipment needing to be removed. Virginia Vetter moved to remove the HP EliteBook 8570P, 2 Gateway GWTN156-BL, 2 Gateway GWNT156-BK, HP 15-BA027NR, HP EliteBook 840 G5, Lenovo ThinkPadP52, HP ProBook 650 G1 from Ellsworth and Russell inventory. Erin Cook seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Raine Bradshaw reviewed updates for the metrics-based performance raises. Melinda Olson moved to have the term “raises” changed to “evaluation” in further discussions of proposed metrics. Justin Hlaus seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Raine Bradshaw requested signatures from new chairman for Dane G. Hansen Day Camp grants.

In new business, board members watched the KSRE Civil Rights Review with interim director Craig Dinkel and staff. PDC members were reviewed. Amy Westerman moved to remove Andrew Soukup and Dave Weber for the AG PDC due to being inactive and to add

Chadd Stevenson, Beth Pfeifer, Tobina Norris and Erin Cook to the 4-H PDC. Justin Hlaus seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Midway District Extension Appreciation Award was discussed to the board. Melinda Olson moved to award Marcia Blundon the Midway Extension Appreciation Award and to present this award to Marcia and her husband at Meridy's on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Reservations are to be turned into Craig and Rutika and the meeting will follow at 6:30pm. Justin Hlaus seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Raine Bradshaw discussed purchasing a new electric tagger for the EID buttons used in livestock that are installed at weigh in. Tagger costs \$250 plus shipping and does not include a reader. Melinda moved to approve purchase of the tagger not to exceed \$300. Erin Cook seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Change in meeting locations or via Zoom was discussed with the board by Craig Dinkel. Melinda Olson moved to have Zoom meetings be decided by discretion of chairman and extension agents with notice to board members a week in advance. Erin Cook seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Midway Farm Family nomination will come from Russell county for 2026. Melinda Olson moved to nominate Mai Family Show Pigs as the 2026 Midway Farm Family nomination with Ralph Homeier as an alternate choice if they decline. Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Craig, Melina and Virginia will make plans to talk with the family before the March 2026 meeting.

Raine Bradshaw discussed the aging laptops used by the 4-H agent and livestock agent. Melinda Olson moved to have agents purchase 2 laptops to not exceed \$3,500.00 at the discretion of the agents. Justin Hlaus seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Raine Bradshaw discussed applying for the Summer Engagement Grant from the Patterson Family. Amy Westerman moved to approve agents to apply for the Summer Engagement Grant. Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Melinda Olson moved to approve Judith Robbins, Brynae Thompson, and Cristina Morrison as 4-H Volunteers. Erin Cook seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Melinda Olson moved to enter executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with all board members and Craig Dinkel present for 10 minutes starting at 7:38pm. Justin Hlaus seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was exited at 7:48pm and no action was taken.

Melinda Olson moved to enter executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with all board members and Craig Dinkel present for 15 minutes, starting at 7:49pm. Justin

Hlaus seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was exited at 8:04pm and no action was taken. Melinda Olson moved to extend executive session by 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with all board members and Craig Dinkel present, starting at 8:05pm. Justin Hlaus seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was exited at 8:20pm and no action was taken.

Melinda Olson moved to adjourn the meeting, Justin Hlaus seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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Mariana Kinnard, President

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Amy Westerman, Secretary