

**Midway Extension District #15**  
**April 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes**  
**Ellsworth County Courthouse, 6:00pm**

The regular monthly meeting of the Midway Extension District board meeting was called to order by President Gaylon Walter on April 10, 2025, at 6:00pm. Board members present were Marcia Blundon, Gunnar Hays, Melinda Olson, Julie Nienke, Amy Westerman and Justin Hlaus was present on Zoom at 6:45pm. Jessica Kootz, Craig Dinkel, and Karrie Van Winkle were also present.

Gunnar Hays moved to move new business line-item Shooting Sports to go after approval of the Consent Agenda. Marcia Blundon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Julie Nienke moved to approve the agenda as corrected, Gunnar Hays seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Melinda Olson moved to approve the consent agenda items. Gunnar Hays seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Tim Hays, Ellsworth Shooting Sports coordinator, discussed with the board funding for the 2025 Rock Springs Ranch Instructor training. The training costs \$300 for 3 disciplines per instructor and will cover food and, room and board. Kevin Smith would be the only individual going through training. Melinda Olson moved to fund \$200 for Kevin Smith's training. Gunnar Hays seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Karrie Van Winkle, Craig Dinkel and Jessica Kootz gave agent reports. Marcia Blundon moved to approve the agents' reports. Gunnar Hays seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Julie Nienke gave an Ellsworth County PDC meeting recap. They went over Civil Rights training, judged 2025 fair book covers, discussed herdmanship contest and produced a new, more generic herdmanship form for the upcoming year. They also reviewed the Ellsworth County fair schedule and discussed changes to Ellsworth's round robin and livestock judging contest. Fair book changes were also reviewed that mostly reflected State Fair rule changes.

Karrie Van Winkle gave a recap on the Russell County PDC meeting. They also completed their Civil Rights training and have begun using the Fair Entry system. Russell added more rule detailing for style review, small animal weigh in, foods, wildlife and entomology fair projects.

Jessica Kootz updated the board on the Midway District Goals. The agents continue to work on water, childcare and marketing in both Ellsworth and Russell counties. In March, they sent out Know Your Water mailers, and discussed the Know Your Water project with Ellsworth County commissioners. They attended the Russell County Childcare Community meeting and mailed out flyers to local city offices as well as delivering flyers to the Lucas City Hall to be

included in their water bills. To meet marketing goals, the agents visited the Russell County Commissioners.

Jessica Kootz updated the board on updates made to the website.

Karrie Van Winkle presented Sarah Goss, Chris Kirmer, Amanda (Mandy) Brungardt, Krysta Cash, Tamera Cline, and Jon Herbal to be approved as 4-H Volunteers. Marcia Blundon moved to approve the 4-H volunteers as listed. Julie Nienke seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Jessica Kootz will have Clinton Laflin give the board information on the Master Farm Family nomination as soon as possible.

Jessica Kootz requested \$2,500.00 grants from both Smoky Hill Charitable Foundation and Russell County Area Community Foundation that would provide the district funding for summer interns. Neither organization has provided any information back.

Jessica Kootz reviewed the Bonus portion of the Employee Handbook. Jessica will continue to discuss policies with other districts and will review once again with the board in May.

Gaylon Walter requested for Jessica Kootz to send the link to the agent's office hours to the board through email.

Karrie Van Winkle presented Sarah Goss's request to resign from the Ellsworth County 4-H PDC. Julie Nienke moved to accept her resignation and Marcia Blundon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Melinda Olson moved to enter executive session for 10 minutes to discuss matters of non-elected personnel to discuss personnel performance with all agents and board members present. Marcia Blundon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was entered at 7:33pm and exited at 7:43pm. No action was taken.

Marcia Blundon moved to enter executive session to discuss matters of non-elected personnel to discuss personnel performance with all board members and Jessica Kootz for 15 minutes. Gunnar Hays seconded. Executive session was entered at 7:45pm and exited at 8:00pm. Julie Nienke moved to accept Karrie Van Winkle's resignation. Melinda Olson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Gunnar Hays moved to open the position of Midway District 4-H agent for hire. Melinda Olson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting will be May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Russell County 4-H Building. Marcia Blundon moved to adjourn the meeting. Gunnar Hays seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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Gaylon Walter, President

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Amy Westerman, Secretary