

Midway Extension District #15
August 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Ellsworth Courthouse, 6:30pm

The regular monthly meeting of the Midway Extension District board meeting was called to order by President Gaylon Walter on August 14, 2025, at 6:30pm. Board members present were Maria Blundon, Gunnar Hays, Justin Hlaus, Julie Nienke, Melinda Olson, and Virginia Vetter. Board member Amy Westerman arrived at 6:40pm. Agents Jessica Kootz, Craig Dinkel, Raine Bradshaw, and Clinton Laflin were also present.

Melinda Olson moved to approve the agenda, Julie Nienke seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Melinda Olson moved to approve the consent agenda items. Marcia Blundon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agents presented monthly reports. There were no committee reports. Gunnar Hays moved to approve the reports, Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

In unfinished business, Clinton Laflin presented updates of the Midway District goals in water, childcare, and marketing. Agents were presented with issues of blue green algae from producers and discussed how to treat it. Jessica Kootz had a coalition meeting on childcare. The website continues to be improved.

Clinton Laflin discussed continued website updates. Website traffic was up with fairs going on in each county. 4-H and livestock have plans to update their respective pages with the suggestion of adding information on land leasing to the livestock page.

Clinton Laflin announces the hiring of Michelle Klein to take over the Russell Office Professional. Michelle will start on August 4, 2025, with a starting pay of \$14/hour.

Three budget proposals were presented by Clinton Laflin. The board decided to not exceed RNR for 2026 during their July 2025 meeting. Melinda Olson moved to accept budget proposal #3 for a mill rate of 1.689 for the 2026 budget. Julie Nienke seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Clinton will submit the budget and the board will sign at the September meeting. Gunnar Hays moved to have the open budget meeting at 6:15pm on September 11, 2025. Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Jessica Kootz reviewed the Trying Tommies (Ellsworth County) 50/50 fundraising raffle final report. 620 raffle tickets were sold with a profit of \$620 (winner of drawing donated winnings back to club) plus an additional add-on of \$200 at the Ellsworth County Fair Premium Auction. Virginia Vetter moved to approve the application. Melinda Olson

seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Marcia Blundon moved to approve the report, Amy Westerman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

In new business, Clinton Laflin and agents gave recaps on the county fairs.

Raine Bradshaw discussed the Feeding the Future Program that fills in when school cafeterias are closed. The program would potentially run out of Russell and she will continue to research the program and grant opportunities.

Gaylon Walters moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters relating to non-elected personnel with all board members and Clinton Laflin present for ten minutes. Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was entered at 8:30pm and exited at 8:40pm. Melinda Olson moved to reenter the executive session under the same parameters for fifteen minutes. Executive session was re-entered at 8:40pm and exited at 8:55pm. No action was taken.

Amy Westerman moved to adjourn the meeting, Julie Nienke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Gaylon Walter, President

Amy Westerman, Secretary