

Midway Extension District #15
December 11, 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 December 11, 2025 at 6:00pm. Board members present were Marcia Blundon, Gunnar Hays, Justin Hlaus, Melinda Olson, Julie Nienke, and Amy Westerman. Jessica Kootz, Clinton Laflin, Raine Bradshaw, were also present. K-State Regional Director Aliesa Good was in attendance via Zoom.

Marcia Blundon moved to approve the agenda as presented, Amy Westerman seconded and the vote passed unanimously. Amy Westerman moved to approve the consent agenda items with spelling corrections to November 2025's minutes and Melinda Olson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

All agents presented their monthly reports. Gunnar Hays moved to approve the agent reports, Melinda Olson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

In unfinished business, Jessica Kootz gave a report on the childcare initiative. They will be taking December off for the holidays but they provided pizza and sensory toys for childcare providers, are working on finding funding for CO2 detectors and have 2 new facilities opening in 2026. Clinton Laflin had 2 consumers come in for water tests and the website updates are still to come from the university.

In new business, Clinton Laflin gave insight to what the Interim Director will need to be mindful of until the hiring of a new director is complete. The Ellsworth courthouse situation and hiring the new agent will be big issues in the next months. Melinda Olson moved to enter executive session at 6:20pm for 10 minutes to discuss the interim director position with Clinton Laflin, Alicia Good and board members. Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive session was exited at 6:30pm. Gunnar Hays moved to approve Craig Dinkel as the interim director of Midway district. Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

All agents discussed metrics for agent salary increases. Marcia Blundon moved to enter executive session with all board members and Aliesa Good for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Melinda Olson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was entered at 6:42pm and was exited at 7:02pm. No action was taken. Marcia Blundon moved to extend executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with all board members and Alicia Good for 10 minutes. Melinda Olson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was entered at 7:02pm and exited at 7:12pm. No action was taken. Marcia Blundon moved to extend executive session by 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with all board members and Alicia Good. Melinda Olson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was entered at 7:12pm and exited at 7:27pm. No action was taken. Gunnar Hays discussed with agents that the board is open to agents collaborating on metrics for agent performances and presenting to board. No salary increases will be tied to metric and new director and Alicia Good will be included in this metric.

Clinton Laflin presented the Adams Brown engagement letter for the annual financial audit. This will extend for 3 years. Marcia Blundon moved to accept the engagement letter from Adams Brown for 2025 – 2027. Julie Nienke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Clinton Laflin gave an update on the Ellsworth County Commissioners meeting. Architects will be wanting to start construction in 6 months. Space differences between the current office space and the register of deeds is about 250 sq ft less. Jessica Kootz has been looking for other locations and as found a couple promising places. She will continue to search.

Raine Bradshaw discussed shooting sports training to remain certified would cost \$1,000.00. One instructor added a specialty, and new volunteer was added to the program. Melinda Olson moved to support the shooting sports training with \$500.00 paid by Midway District. Marica Blundon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Raine Bradshaw discussed sending herself to dog project training so Russell can have an informed individual for the project. Gunnar Hays moved to give financial support of \$150 for the training. Amy Westerman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Raine Bradshaw presented Kerianne Ehrlich, Matthew Howard, Sheri Howard, Daniel Cook, Erin Cook, Jessica Deines, Janella Eck, Kierra Eck, Rodney Eck, and Jon Herbel to be approved to be 4-H Volunteers. Marcia Blundon moved to approve on the contingency of completed background checks and training to be completed. Melinda Olson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Clinton Laflin reminded the board that board training modules will become available in January and February. These will reeducate old and new board members on rules and expectations.

Raine Bradshaw discussed with the board that grants are available for summer interns. This grant money would have a three year roll out. Marcia Blundon moved to give approval to apply for summer internship. Julie Nienke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Marcia Blundon moved to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel performance reviews of office professionals for 15 minutes with Clinton Laflin and all board members. Amy Westerman seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was entered at 8:05pm and exited at 8:20pm. Justin Hlaus moved to increase Rutika's hourly pay to \$18/hour. Julie Nienke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Melinda Olson moved to enter executive session for 10 minutes with all agents and board members present to discuss 4-H volunteers. Executive session was entered at 8:25pm and exited at 8:35pm. No action was taken.

Melinda Olson moved to adjourn the meeting and Gunnar Hays seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman:

Secretary: