

**Midway Extension District #15**  
**Ellsworth and Russell Counties**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting – February 8, 2024**  
**6:30pm at the Ellsworth County Courthouse**

The regular monthly meeting of the Midway Extension District #15 was held on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:30pm. Chairman Gaylon Walters, called the meeting to order. Other board members in attendance were Marcia Blundon, Gunnar Hays, Justin Hlaus, Melinda Olson, Virginia Vetter and Amy Westerman. Extension agents in attendance were Jessica Kootz, Clinton Laflin, Craig Dinkel and Karrie Van Winkle. There was no public comment.

Melinda Olson moved to approve the agenda with the addition of “Vehicle Conversations” to new business. Gunnar Hays seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Gunnar Hays moved to approve the consent agenda with the addition of Clinton Laflin using an extra personal leave day on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Gaylon Walters presented a proposed committee placement with Gunnar Hays and Amy Westerman on the Financial committee, Marcia Blundon and Virginia Vetter on the District Policy committee, Gaylon Walters and Julie Nienke on the Performance Review committee, and Justin Hlaus and Melinda Olson on the Board Excellence committee. Agent reports were presented. Gunnar Hays moved to approve the reports, Melinda Olson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

- a) Jessica Kootz covered the Civil Rights Training and went through the discussion guide with the board members.
- b) Jessica Kootz discussed the 3 individuals that applied for the summer internship program. Interviews are being scheduled to be held over zoom, only two applicants will be eligible for selection. The Midway district will receive a \$5,000 grant to fund the interns programming and expenses. The only expense Midway had last year with this program was auto insurance for the interns driving district vehicles.

Marcia Blundon moved to approve old business, Gunnar Hays seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

- a) Gaylon Walters and Jessica Kootz gave a recap on the January 25<sup>th</sup> Partnership Meeting that was hosted over zoom. A few key points that were discussed were:
  - i. 44% of agents have less than 5 years of experience.
  - ii. K-State President Richard Linton and Vice President Marshall Stewart are having great involvement with KSRE.
  - iii. The Partnership Meeting showed a new video on land grants that has been requested to be shared to the Midway district website.
  - iv. Memorandum of Understanding was discussed.
  - v. In Central Kansas, 19 out of the 22 counties completed the board of excellence review with Midway district being a part of that 19. The state as a whole is asked to work on: (Board Development #5) board representatives participate in quarterly partnership meetings to gain knowledge of extension programming and current issues. They communicate what they have learned to the entire board, (Program #28) the board appoints individuals to PDCs who are not otherwise represented, and (Program #29) representatives of each PDC regularly report to the board on program progress and outcomes.
  - vi. K-State created a new program called Discover Your Future Program: 4-H Career Exploration and Career Pathway Program that is aimed towards juniors and seniors in high school. This program allows high school students to earn college credit that coincide with 4-H projects in introductory classes such as Ag

Communications, Human Development and Personal Finance. 3-4 students in Midway district applied to be in this program.

- vii. KSU 105 is working to utilize the established networks of KSRE to make our communities thrive. KSU President Linton is making it his mission to visit all 105 counties in Kansas but has not completed his tour of Midway district.
- b) Jessica Kootz presented the Russell Office Professional job description and the newspaper advertisement. Gunnar Hays moved to change the starting wage based at \$14.00/hour and a verbiage change in the advertisement, Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- c) Jessica Kootz and Karrie Van Winkle discussed Per Diem on travel. The District Policy committee will meet to draft a new proposal on compensating for meals and other travel expenses that happen outside the 8 hour working day.
- d) Jessica Kootz presented the KRSL Agriculture Package Sponsorship that covers air time for National FFA Week, February 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, and National Agriculture Week, March 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. This would be an investment of \$325.00. Marcia Blundon moved to be a sponsor in KSRL Agriculture Package, Gunnar Hays seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- e) The board approved to have Gaylon Walter sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the SNAP-Ed program. Our SNAP-Ed Educator is Jacy Buchholz who covers Cottonwood, Midway and Walnut Creek districts.
- f) The Ellsworth Fair Council is looking to buy a flag set, one 4-H flag and one American Flag. These flags would be used during the fair and would allow Ellsworth Fair Council to not have to borrow Russell County's flags. Karrie Van Winkle would purchase the flags and then the Ellsworth Fair Council would reimburse Midway district. Marcia Blundon moved to have Karrie Van Winkle purchase the flags for Ellsworth Fair Council with the reimbursing the district back. Gunnar Hays seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- g) Gaylon Walters discussed with the agents and board about setting parameters on vehicle replacement. He challenged the board and agents to think about suggested mileage or age for replacement and asked the agents to do some research on possible dealerships to purchase vehicles from and to look for past years' mileage.

### **Executive Session**

No executive session was called.

### **Announcements**

- a. Next meeting will be March 14, 2024 beginning at 6:30pm at the Russell County 4-H Building.
- b. KSRE Quarterly Partnership Meetings will be April 23, August 13, and November 9.

Gunnar Hays moved to adjourn the meeting, Melinda Olson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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Gaylon Walters, Chairman

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Amy Westerman, Secretary