

**Midway Extension District #15**  
**June 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes**  
**Ellsworth County Courthouse, 6:30pm**

The regular monthly meeting of the Midway Extension District board meeting was called to order by President Gaylon Walter on June 12, 2025 at 6:30pm. Board members present were Marcia Blundon, Gunnar Hays, Melinda Olson, Julie Nienke, Virginia Vetter and Amy Westerman. Jessica Kootz, Craig Dinkel, and Clinton Laflin were also present.

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

All agents presented their monthly reports and there were no committee reports.

In unfinished business, Jessica Kootz reported on the progress on Midway District goals which include Water, Childcare, and Marketing. With Water, the district will receive \$2,000 from the Know Your Water grant for a water table. Craig Dinkel also attended the Know Your Water summit on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. In Childcare, the district and coalition members meet with Jim Malone to create an EIN. In Marketing, they continue to work on the website and rotating flyers in local communities.

Jessica Kootz gave the board an update on the website. The horticulture and crops sections are completed, and the office will continue to work on updating more sections. Jessica Kootz updated the board on the Russell County Summer Intern. They have received two applications, and the board consented to the agents conducting interviews.

Jessica Kootz is continuing to work on updated Office Policy and Procedures and will report at the next meeting.

Jessica Kootz discussed with the board about selecting an individual to be the Local Unit Administrative Liaison which will be an elected position in the next years to come. Amy Westerman will complete the 2025 year.

In new business, Jessica Kootz presented Diana Johnson's resignation to be approved by the board. Virginia Vetter moved to accept Diana's resignation and Julie Nienke seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Marcia Blundon moved to open the Russell office professional position immediately for a starting rate of \$14/hr. Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Melinda Olson moved to enter executive session for thirty minutes to discuss members of non-elected personal to discuss performance with all board members and Aliesa Good present. Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive session was entered at 7:15pm and exited at 7:45pm. No action was taken. Melinda Olson moved to extend executive session for ten minutes to discuss members of non-elected personal with all board members and Aliesa Good present. Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was entered at 7:45pm and exited at 7:55pm.

Melinda Olson moved to accept Jessica Kootz's resignation as director of Midway District effective as of June 20, 2025. Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion passed with 5 yays (Marcia Blundon, Melinda Olson, Julie Nienke, Virgina Vetter, Amy Westerman) and 1 abstained (Gunnar Hays).

Melinda Olson moved to accept Clinton Laflin as Interim Director of Midway District as of June 20, 2025. Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed with 5 yays (Marcia Blundon, Gunnar Hays, Melinda Olson, Virginia Vetter, Amy Westerman) and 1 abstained (Julie Nienke).

Melinda Olson moved to accept Raine Bradshaw as Midway District 4-H agent beginning July 21, 2025. Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion passed with 5 yays (Marcia Blundon, Gunnar Hays, Melinda Olson, Virginia Vetter, Amy Westerman) and 1 abstained (Julie Nienke).

Marcia Blundon moved to offer Raine Bradshaw up to 120 hours of work prior to her start date of July 21, 2025 with a wage of \$25/hr. Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Melinda Olson moved to adjourn the meeting and Marcia Blundon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Gaylon Walter, President

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Amy Westerman, Secretary