

**Midway Extension District #15
Ellsworth and Russell Counties
Regular Monthly Meeting – March 14, 2024
6:30pm at Meridian's Restaurant**

The regular monthly meeting of the Midway Extension District #15 was held on Thursday March 14, 2024 at 6:30pm. Chairman Gaylon Walters called the meeting to order. Other board members in attendance were Marcia Blundon, Gunnar Hays, Julie Nienke, Melinda Olson, Virginia Vetter and Amy Westerman. Extension agents in attendance were Jessica Kootz, Craig Dinkel and Karrie Van Winkle. Guests present were Albert Lin from the Russell Newspaper and Jeff Ochampaugh.

Extension agents and board members presented Albert Lin with the 2023 Kansas State Appreciation Award. Albert Lin has continuously supported 4-H through numerous news coverage and reporting in the Russell County Newspaper. The extension board and agents are very thankful for Albert's efforts throughout the years.

Gaylon Walters discussed moving new business item "Russell Office Professional Position" to executive session. Julie moved to make this change, Melinda Olson seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Melinda Olson moved to approved the consent agenda items. Gunnar Hays seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Marcia Blundon moved to approve the agent reports, Gunnar Hays seconded and the motion passed. There were no committee reports.

Unfinished Business

- a) Jessica Kootz informed the board on where the 4-H Summer Intern Program interviews. Three interviews were conducted with two offers being sent out to their respective candidates. No official acceptance has been made at this time.
- b) Gaylon Walters presented on the mileage on extension vehicles from 2022 and 2023. Board members discussed parameters on when to trade in vehicles. This will be discussed further at the July board meeting during budget discussions.
- c) Travel per diem was discussed with the policy committee. Kansas State has travel per diem rates and travel conditions in their policies and the Midway District will continue to follow the Kansas State policy.

New Business

- b) Karrie Van Winkle discussed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Ellsworth Fair Association and Russell Fair Board. These memorandums cover what the responsibilities are of both the extension office and the elected fair boards. Gunnar Hays approved the Memorandum of Understanding for Ellsworth Fair Board and Russell Fair Board. Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- c) Karrie Van Winkle presented new 4-H volunteers to be approved that included Raine Bradshaw, Michael Deines, Lindsey Mueting, Janna Nelson, Tobina Norris, and Brandi Reinhardt. Julie Nienke moved to approve the volunteers and Gunnar Hays seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- d) Jessica Kootz recapped the Civil Rights Training that the extension office participated in. The extension office was applauded for their great record keeping and magnificent binder.

Executive Session

Gunnar Hays moved to enter executive session for 10 minutes to discuss nonelected personal and performance with all board members and agents present. Julie Nienke seconded and executive session was entered at 8:04 pm.

Marcia Blundon moved to resume executive session to discuss nonelected personal and performance with all board members and agents present. Virigina Vetter seconded and executive session was continued at 8:15pm.

Executive session ended at 8:20pm and no action was taken.

Gaylon Walters provided the announcements. The next meeting will be April 11, 2024 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse at 6:30pm. The next KSRE Quarterly Partnership Meeting will be April 23, 2024 in person. Karrie Van Winkle gave notice to the board the Sunflower 4-H club will be hosting a pancake feed on April 7th at the Russell 4-H building.

Gunnar Hays moved to adjourn the meeting, Virigina Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Gaylon Walters, Chairman

Amy Westerman, Secretary