

Midway Extension District #15
May 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Russell County Fair Grounds, 6:30pm

The regular monthly meeting of the Midway Extension District board meeting was called to order by President Gaylon Walter on May 8, 2025 at 6:30pm. Board members present were Marcia Blundon, Justin Hlaus, Melinda Olson, Julie Nienke, Virginia Vetter, Amy Westerman, and Gunnar Hays was present on Zoom. Jessica Kootz and Clinton Laflin were present and Craig Dinkel was present on Zoom. 1 guest was present on Zoom.

Amy Westerman moved to approve the agenda as presented. Julie Nienke seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Melinda Olson moved to approve the consent agenda items with no corrections, Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

All agents presented their monthly reports. Justin Hlaus moved to approve agent reports, Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. There were no committee reports

In unfinished business, Jessica Kootz reported on the progress on Midway District goals which include Water, Childcare, and Marketing. Midway District office professionals continue to work on improving the website and hanging and removing flyers as needed. In Childcare, the needs assessment survey closed in April and there will be a town hall meeting on May 15th. Midway district agents are in continued talks with USD 112 and Ellsworth Daycare center. In Water, the state summit will be on June 3rd. Agents will check back in with KSRL about advertising for the returning Radon and Cancer Town Halls meetings.

Jessica Kootz gave the board an update on the website. Board members suggested adding fair deadlines to calendar and easy to find links to enroll in fair projects/fair entry. The district offices will continue to make user friendly and updating information.

Clinton Laflin gave an update on the Master Farm Family application for 2025 that is due on May 9th. The family of Virgil Huseman has decided to pass for the year due to lack of time. They were grateful for the opportunity. Russell County will be the nominee for next year. The board discussed getting preliminary questions to the nominated Master Farm Family as early as possible and if additional questions arise on the application to submit those later to the family as soon as possible.

Jessica Kootz discussed funding for summer interns with the board. The district was unable to obtain funds from the Smoky Hill Charitable Foundation but was able to receive \$1,250.00 from Russell County Charitable Foundation. Those funds from Russell would only be available to be spent in Russell County. Melinda Olson moved to advertise on social media and the website for a summer intern in Russell County to be paid \$12.00/hr for 20 hours/week for 6 weeks. The internship would run from June 16th – August 1st and there would be the possibility of more hours during fair week. The intern would need to be aged 16 and up with a valid driver's license. Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Jessica Kootz discussed with the board with current standing office policy and procedures. No action was taken but Kootz will investigate the language that needs to be developed that will be discussed at a later date.

In new business, new agent hiring process was discussed. Board members wishing to participate in the hiring process need to complete the hiring modules to be eligible to sit in interviews.

Jessica Kootz discussed Food Per Diem for County Fairs with the board. Marcia Blundon moved to allow one meal for every four hours worked consecutively or two meals for every eight hours worked consecutively that is eligible for all employees. Meals will not exceed \$14.00. Justin Hlaus seconded and the motion passed.

Marcia Blundon moved to allow Fair Exchange Day which allows agents to exchange fair comp time to be used as one full day of professional scheduling hours. Gaylon Walter seconded and the motion passed.

The board discussed the partnership meeting update and local unit administrative liaison. Discussion has been moved to the next board meeting.

Melinda Olson moved to adjourn the meeting and Virginia Vetter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Gaylon Walter, President

Amy Westerman, Secretary