

Agenda

Joint Friends of the Fair, Fair Committee and Extension Education Committee
March 4, 2024, at 6:30PM
227 1st Street West Altoona, WI 54720 Room 103/104

Those wishing to make public comments can submit their name and address no later than 30 minutes prior to the meeting to Kristi Peterson kristin.peterson@wisc.edu or attend the meeting in person. Comments are limited to three minutes; you will be called on during the public comment section of the meeting.

A majority of the county board may be in attendance at this meeting, however, only members of the committee may take action on an agenda item.

Join from the meeting link

<https://uwmadison.webex.com/uwmadison/j.php?MTID=m2c8d13ec29f590831bcbd347900f1ebe>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2631 484 2323

Meeting password: VVzenb3iF66 (88936234 from phones)

Join by phone 1-415-655-0001

1. Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice.
2. Roll Call
 - a. Extension Education
 - b. Fair Committee
 - c. Friends of the Fair
3. Public Comment
4. Fair Structure – Discussion
 - a. Jayme Buttke - Executive Secretary at Wisconsin Association of Fairs
 - b. Jason Hausler - Assisted Dean. UW-Madison Extension
5. Fair Committee – Discussion
 - a. Fair Financials
 - b. Organization discussion
6. Resolution –Extension Education Committee Discussion/Action
 - a. File number 23-24/084 - ALLOWING FOR THE CREATION OF A FAIR BOARD, AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, OR AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT, POLICY, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR

PLEASE NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters, remote access, or other auxiliary aids. Contact the clerk of the committee or Administration for assistance (715-839-5106). For additional information on ADA requests, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-6945, (FAX) 839-1669 or 839-4735, TTY: use Relay (711) or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.

7. Ordinance – Extension Education Committee Discussion/Action
 - a. File number 23-24/083 - TO AMEND SECTION 2.04.450 A. OF THE CODE: COMMITTEE ON UW-EXTENSION EDUCATION
8. Future Meeting March 20, 2024
9. Agenda Items
10. Announcements
11. Adjourn

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FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 23-24/084

The structure, oversight, and policy of the Eau Claire County Junior Fair has historically been governed by Eau Claire County as currently required by County Code. The Committee on UW-Extension Education is the standing supervising committee for the Fair Committee. The Fair Committee is a working committee for fair policy and volunteers. The Friends of the Fair (FOF) is a private 501(C)(3) created to solicit funds, collect donations, pay contracts, and submit financials to Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for youth premium pay outs. There are also 4-H volunteers, the Livestock Committee, and UW-Extension Madison that have varying roles in the execution of the Eau Claire County Junior Fair.

It is understood that there are only two counties in the State to have such a structure. The vast number of entities involved in this structure inherently leads to conflict. The parties wish to have one cohesive decision-making body that is not confined by County requirements like walking quorums, conflicts of interest, and open meeting laws. For example, Fair Committee members are not allowed to serve as supervisory roles for other fair entities, like FOF, due to County Code requirements related to conflicts of interest. By its very nature, this leads to possible communication issues, silos of information, and responsibility. Moreover, some parents are reluctant to enroll their children in programs where they are required to give notice to the general public. The structure and these issues are believed to have contributed to a drop in fair members/volunteers.

The current proposal moving forward after the 2024 fair, is to take leadership from FOF and the Fair Committee and combine these individuals into a new a Fair Board, Agricultural Society or Agricultural Association. The newly combined decision-making board would benefit from all parties being present when decisions are made, whether the issue is policy, governance, or fund-raising. The number of required meetings would be reduced by half and many issues that currently are heard at multiple meeting only need to be noticed for one meeting. It is hoped that the volunteer numbers would increase with a structure in place that brings all parties to the table and is less demanding of time.

It is anticipated that this newly combined decision-making board would be formed under the FOF 501(C)(3) status. If allowed, the Office of Corporation Counsel can assist in the transition process and provide guidance complying with DATCP regulations and creating bylaws.

Once the 2024 fair is complete, the newly combined decision-making board is established, and the bylaws are complete, the role of the Office of Corporation Counsel would be limited to representing the Parks and Forest Department in fair matters moving forward.

The fair would return to requesting funds like any other community agency in the County. The County role with the fair would be one of lessor/lessee. The County would no longer be responsible for the fair, but would provide support through funding a community organization, and providing the location per the lease. There may also be an opportunity for a County Board member to serve as a liaison for the fair.

Fiscal Impact: Substantially less in-kind funds will be expended on the Fair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles R. Ellefsen, III
Assistant Corporation Counsel

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 23-24/083

County Ordinance 2.04.450 defines the responsibility of the Committee on UW-Extension education. This amendment removes the requirement for the Committee on UW-Extension education, thus the County, to be the entity responsible for policy and oversight of the Eau Claire County Fair.

Secondly, the County Administrator and UW Wisconsin-Madison Extension have requested to rename UW-Extension Education Committee to the Community Outreach and Education Committee in order to reduce confusion between the entities. Sections 2.04.120, 2.04.450, and 17.02.010 are included to reflect the name change.

Fiscal Impact: Minimal costs related to publishing the new name.

Respectfully Submitted:
Charles R. Ellefsen, III
Assistant Corporation Counsel

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3 ALLOWING FOR THE CREATION OF A FAIR BOARD, AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, OR
4 AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT, POLICY, AND RESPONSIBILITY
5 FOR THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR
6

7 WHEREAS, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 93.23 and County Code 2.04.450, Eau Claire County, through its
8 Fair Committee and Committee on UW-Extension Education is responsible for policy and oversight of the
9 Eau Claire County Fair; and
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11 WHEREAS, Friends of the Fair is the financial entity for the Eau Claire County Fair; Friends of the
12 Fair solicits for donations, raises funding and pays the Fair debts, among other volunteer help; and
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14 WHEREAS, the current structure does not facilitate collaboration, and the parties mutually desire to
15 combine the separate entities into one consolidated Fair Board, Agricultural Society or Agricultural
16 Association pursuant to Wis. Stat. §93.23 for the 2025 Eau Claire County Fair and beyond; and
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18 WHEREAS, the creation of a Fair Board, Agricultural Society or Agricultural Association will require
19 the commission of new bylaws in compliance with Wis. Chapter 93 and Department of Agriculture, Trade,
20 and Consumer Protection (DATCP); and
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22 WHEREAS, Eau Claire County desires to facilitate the transition process from a junior fair overseen
23 and responsible to the County, to a junior fair responsible and overseen by a Fair Board, Agricultural
24 Society or Agricultural Association.
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26 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors hereby
27 approves the request to allow for the creation of a Fair Board, Agricultural Society, or Agricultural
28 Association to provide oversight, policy, and responsibility for the Eau Claire County Junior Fair; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Corporation Counsel Office may assist in the creation of
31 regulations and/or bylaws during the transition process to a junior fair that is no longer the responsibility
32 of the County, any said work would be completed by December 31, 2024; and
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34 BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that Eau Claire County shall have no further responsibility related to
35 policy or oversight of the Eau Claire Junior Fair after the 2024 Fair; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after the 2024 Eau Claire County Junior Fair, the Eau Claire
38 County Fair Committee may be dissolved.
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ADOPTED

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Committee on UW-Extension Education

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51 Dated this _____ day of _____, 2024

_____ AYE, _____ NO

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TO AMEND SECTION 2.04.120 A. 4. OF THE CODE: RULE 12-STANDING COMMITTEES; TO AMEND SECTION 2.04.450 A. OF THE CODE: COMMITTEE ON UW-EXTENSION EDUCATION; TO AMEND SECTION 17.02.010 B. 1.OF THE CODE: MEMBERSHIP

The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Eau Claire does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. That paragraph 4. of Subsection A. of Section 2.04.120 of the code be amended to read:

2.04.120 Rule 12--Standing committees.

A. As soon as practical, the following standing committees shall be appointed by the chair of the board and shall consist of five members each except as specifically designated in this section. The chair of the board shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of all standing committees that he or she is not otherwise a member of.

- 1. Committee on administration (3 of whom shall be the county board officers);
- 2. Committee on human resources;
- 3. Committee on judiciary and law enforcement;
- 4. ~~Committee on UW Extension education~~ Community Outreach and Education Committee;

SECTION 2. That Section 2.04.450 of the code be amended to read:

II. STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES--RULES AND DUTIES THEREOF

- 2.04.435 Committee on administration.
- 2.04.440 Committee on human resources.
- 2.04.445 Committee on judiciary and law enforcement.
- 2.04.450 ~~Committee on UW Extension education.~~ Community Outreach and Education Committee.
- 2.04.455 Committee on planning and development.
- 2.04.465 Highway committee
- 2.04.475 Committee on parks and forest.
- 2.04.485 Committee on finance and budget.

2.04.450 ~~Committee on UW Extension education~~ Community Outreach and Education Committee

A. The committee shall be responsible to the county board for the departmental policy and oversight of the county extension department and its board authorized functions, including:

- 1. ~~Eau Claire County Junior Fair Committee;~~
- 2. ~~County 4-H youth programs.~~

1 SECTION 3. That paragraph 1. of Subsection B. of Section 17.02.010 of the code be
2 amended to read:

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4 B. Members shall be appointed by the chair of the county board, subject to the
5 confirmation of the board as follows:

6 1. 2 members of the ~~UW-Extension education committee~~ Community
7 Outreach and Education Committee;

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10 ENACTED:

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21 Committee on UW-Extension education

22 VOTE: _____ Aye _____ Nay

23 Dated this _____ day of _____, 2024.
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