

**2011 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days
Executive Committee Minutes
July 24, 2008**

LOCATION: 212 River Drive, Conf Room #3

PRESENT: Len Bayer, Tim Buttke, Sandi Cihlar, Keith Langenhahn, Scott Mickelsen, Craig Mortenson, Jerome Oelke, Jilayne Radtke, Mike Wildeck, and Jenn Zimmermann.

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Thompson (General Manager of WI FTDs, Inc.)

Wildeck called the meeting to order at 2:37 pm.

Review agenda for changes/additions: None.

Introduction of committee members and guest: Members and guest introduced themselves to the group.

Action taken to this point:

Wildeck reviewed some background on what happened to bring us to this point. The idea to bid for an upcoming show was introduced at a Partnership for Progressive Agriculture Steering Committee Meeting last summer. With their support, Wildeck was asked to inquire as to availability for a future show date. Marathon County government voiced their support from the Extension Education Committee, the Finance and Property Committee, and the Executive Committee. The full County Board unanimously passed a resolution in December, 2007 pledging financial support and directing Wildeck to continue negotiations with WI FTDs, Inc. for the 2011 show. A local delegation, including Buttke, Cihlar, Melissa Klein, Langenhahn, and Wildeck, traveled to Madison on April 9 to present a formal application to the WFTDs Board at their annual meeting. The board approved our application and announced that we would be the host county in 2011. The Marathon County Extension and Education Committee selected names for the 2011 WFTDs Executive Committee at their June meeting.

Committee organization:

Additional member(s) -- Wildeck explained that the Extension and Education Committee identified an attorney for membership on the Executive Committee at their June meeting, however he unfortunately had to decline the invitation. At the July Extension and Education Committee Meeting, it was suggested that a position on the Executive Committee be reserved for the addition of a local attorney, and that the other Executive Committee members could suggest other names when they meet. Potential names included; Dave Eckert, Jim Low, David Wells, Colin Pietz, Bob Zimmermann, and Paul LaPlant. Oelke said he would be meeting with Mr. LaPlant after our meeting, so he could inquire as to his interest.

Officer selection -- Options for selection of officers were discussed. Motion by Radtke and seconded by Oelke to vote for officers today. Motion carried. Wildeck called for nominations for Chairman. Bayer nominated Cihlar and she declined. Cihlar nominated Langenhahn. After three calls for nominations, Bayer moved the nominations be closed and to cast a unanimous ballot for Langenhahn. The motion was seconded by Oelke. Motion carried. Langenhahn presided over the remainder of the meeting and called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Radtke nominated Oelke. After three calls for nominations, Buttke moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Oelke. Motion seconded by Mickelsen. Motion carried. Langenhahn called for nominations for Treasurer. Radtke nominated Buttke. After three calls for nominations, Oelke moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Buttke. Motion seconded by Bayer. Motion carried. Thompson explained that the UW-Extension agricultural agent traditionally serves as the Executive Secretary.

Partnership with WFTDs, Inc.:

Thompson said the first committees to be formed will be Hospitality, Tent City, and the Field Demonstration Committee. It would be helpful to identify the chairs of these committees by the time of the multi-county planning meeting, tentatively scheduled for December 5. We should also be aware that in the past, Executive Committee members either serve as co-chairs or liaisons to the various sub-committees. After discussion, consensus of the group favored the liaison option. Thompson handed out copies of “General Guidelines for Selection and Duties”. Other documents handed out included “Responsibilities and Guidelines for the Planning, Development, and Execution of Wisconsin Farm Technology Days”, and “FTD Policy Statements”. Glenn suggested moving on to host farm selection matters in the interest of time. He asked committee members to review the documents for discussion at future meetings.

Host Farm Selection:

Application form/timetable -- Thompson distributed copies of “Site Selection Criteria”, “Host Farm Application”, and “Contractual Agreement between WFTDs, Inc, and WFTDs Host Farmers”. The committee suggested that Thompson underline site selection criteria #8 and #9. On #3, wording should be changed to “Written rental or lease agreements....”. Site selection criteria should be publicized as soon as possible. By consensus, a special committee meeting will be held August 12 to review the application document and make changes. Applications should be available from the UW-Extension website by August 15. Application deadline is September 30, and they should be received at UW-Extension by that time. Wildeck will see that any received applications be turned over immediately to Buttke at his office. October 17 is the date for visiting finalist farms. Start time is 9:00 am at UW-Extension. Thompson said he would pay for lunch.

Publicity – Committee members asked Wildeck to develop promotional materials for the Wisconsin Valley Fair, issue a new release, and utilize the AgLink newsletter to get the word out on our search for a host farm.

Next Meeting Date/Time/Location:

Our next meeting is August 12 at 2:30 pm in Conference Rm #3, 212 River Drive. This is a special meeting primarily to review the host farm application. Thompson asked that a regular meeting date be set for each month. If there is no urgent business we can decide not to meet. Group consensus was to meet the first Wednesday of each month from 2:30-4:30 pm, in Conference Rm #3, 212 River Drive. Another date to keep in mind is the multi-county planning meeting, tentatively set for the Elizabeth Inn, Plover from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Motion by Buttke and seconded by Oelke to adjourn at 4:30 pm.

Submitted by,
Mike Wildeck, Executive Secretary

APPROVED AUGUST 12, 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- August 12, 2:30 pm – special meeting to review host farm application
- October 1, 2:30 pm – regular meeting
- October 17, 9 am to ?? – farm tour of finalists and meeting
- November 5, 2:30 pm – regular meeting
- December 5, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm – tentative date for multi-county meeting in Plover
- January 7, 2:30 pm – regular meeting**

** regular meetings are the first Wednesday of each month and will be cancelled if there is no urgent business