

**2011 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days
Executive Committee Minutes
October 1, 2008**

LOCATION: 212 River Drive, Conf Room #3

PRESENT: Len Bayer, Tim Buttke, Jerome Oelke, Sandi Cihlar, Keith Langenhahn, Glenn Thompson, Craig Mortenson, Jilayne Radtke, Mike Wildeck, Russ Wilson, and Jenn Zimmermann.

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

Minutes from August 12 Meeting: Motion by Bayer and seconded by Buttke to approve minutes from last meeting. Motion carried.

Review Agenda for Changes/Additions: None.

Legal Opinion on Private vs. Public Body: Wildeck explained that he now has verbal confirmation from Scott Corbett, Marathon County Corporation Counsel on his legal opinion regarding our status as a private or governmental body. Scott said that a recent Wisconsin Supreme Court case helps him ask the right questions to determine whether a group is subject to open meetings law procedure. His opinion is that we are not subject to open meetings law. As a result, I will continue follow procedures as we have been doing since this group was formed. He will be sending over a written opinion on this for our files in the near future.

Establishment of Financial Account: According to Thompson, WI Farm Technology Days Inc pays for a professional audit of the financial records after completion of the show. After discussion, motion made by Zimmermann and seconded by Oelke to establish a financial account for the 2011 show. Treasurer Buttke will set up the necessary accounts at M&I Bank so that bills for anticipated start-up costs can be paid in a timely way. Thompson also brought up that the Brown County show has some new road signs constructed that can be used by future shows. He proposed that Marathon County pay \$440 (1/3 of total cost) to Brown County. Motion by Bayer, seconded by Mortensen to pay \$440 to the Brown County group hosting the 2008 WI FTDs show. Motion carried. The check is to be paid to Brown County Farm Technology Days, c/o Brown County UW-Extension.

Review and Discussion of Confidential and Competitive Host Farm Applications: Discussion included review of criteria necessary to host the show, including highway access, availability of cropland, etc. In order to respect the fact that applications were submitted confidentially, there will be no other announcement at this time. Consensus of the group is to visit both finalist farms on October 17. More information on road issues will be obtained prior to that meeting by Wildeck. Wildeck will also contact Conservation, Planning & Zoning for more detailed field and conservation information.

Timetable will include departure from UW-Extension parking area with 15-passenger van at 8:45 am, then stopping at the Korner Kitchen Restaurant, Edgar for more committee members. First farm visit will be at approximately 9:15 am and second farm at 10:30 am. Lunch is planned in Edgar at approximately 12 noon with a special meeting afterwards. Wildeck will send a blank host farm contract to both farms to review prior to the farm visits. Potential questions include; 1) whether leasing agreements are available on rented land through 2011, 2) biosecurity concerns for livestock operation, 3) disclosure of financial condition with 2-3 members of the Executive Committee as part of the selection process, 4) involvement in programs like “state qualified” nutrient management plans, DHI production testing, etc., and 5) their reaction to having lots of people visit their farm, perhaps even a month before the event.

Review of Policy Document on General Guidelines for Selection and Duties--Wisconsin Farm Technology Days Committees: The committee reviewed the document with Thompson. Thompson asked the group to think about who will be the Executive Committee liaison for the various committees, and encouraged us to make as many selections as possible today. According to Thompson, the Hospitality Committee needs to raise about \$60,000 cash to stay in the black. Some counties have raised \$100-140,000. Committee liaisons were agreed to as follows: (note: Mickelsen was not able to attend)

- Hospitality Committee Liaison -- Zimmermann
- Tent City Committee Liaison -- Mortensen
- Field Layout/Field Demonstration Committee Liaison -- Oelke
- Food Committee Liaison -- Bayer
- Parking/Admissions/Traffic Committee Liaison -- Buttke
- Family Living Committee Liaison -- Cihlar
- Utilities Committee Liaison -- Mortensen
- Sign Committee Liaison -- Buttke
- Publicity/Promotion Committee Liaison -- Radtke
- Youth Committee Liaison -- Wilson
- Grounds Committee Liaison -- Mickelsen (tentative)

Committee Chairs will be recruited by Executive Committee liaisons. Wildeck mentioned that he has a list of “unassigned volunteers” that are potential committee members. UW-Extension staff may also be able to suggest names of committee members. We will plan to invite UW-Extension staff to the next regular meeting to meet Executive Committee members.

Review of Other Policy Documents: Not enough time remaining. Will put on the agenda for our next regular meeting.

Next Meeting Date/Time/Location:

Our next meeting is Friday, October 17. This is a special meeting to tour host farm finalists and continue the selection process. Our next regular meeting is Wednesday, November 5 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room #5, 212 River Drive, Wausau. Dates for the 2011 show will be on the agenda for November 5. It will either be July 12-14 or 19-21.

Motion by Buttke and seconded by Oelke to adjourn at 4:40 pm. Motion carried.

Submitted by,
Mike Wildeck, Executive Secretary

APPROVED NOVEMBER 5, 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- November 5, 2:30 pm – regular meeting
- December 5, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm – 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