

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee

Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2016 11:00 a.m. – UW-Extension Conference Room

Chairman Kevin Larson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. in the UW-Extension Conference Room. Present were: Larson, Easterday, Beitlich, Mitchell, Pulvermacher, Cook-Fuglsang and Traastad.

The public meeting notice was e-mailed to the Vernon County Broadcaster and Vernon County Computer Department and faxed to the County Clerk on November 30, 2016.

Beitlich moved, Easterday seconded, to approve the November 9, 2016 minutes. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting date for the committee will be 11:00 a.m. on January 12, 2017 in the UW-Extension Conference Room.

No visitors from the public were in attendance.

Committee reviewed November expenses. Mitchell moved, Easterday seconded to approve the November 2016 Office Operations expenses of \$1,221.96. **Motion carried.**

Easterday moved, Mitchell seconded to approve the November 2016 Teen Court expenses of \$765.87. **Motion carried.**

Brief reports were given:

Traastad reported on Department Head Activities for October / November:

- ❖ Coordinating the 2017 Pesticide Applicator Training for farmers who need to renew their license in 2017. The class dates will be February 1st and 8th, 2017 with Ted Bay from Grant County teaching this year. According to the WI department list about 73 need to re-certify.
- ❖ Promoted the workshop “Heart of the Farm”, a Farm Management and Production Education for Women event. This is scheduled for December 9, 2016 in Warrens, WI.
- ❖ Promoted for UW-Extension and Coulee Region Veterinary Medical Association the December 15, 2016 Veterinary Feed Directive Overview and Discussion meeting. A mailing was done to Vernon County veterinarians and feed dealers.
- ❖ Worked on Ho-Chunk proposal for 2017 funds and reported at Finance Committee the focus of our programs.
- ❖ Reported on the nEXT Generation Reorganization Project with an outline of proposed options being unveiled February 7, 2017 at a WI Counties Association meeting. The options will be refined and released for comments and input the end of March. During April and May the plans will be finalized with transition starting in July. We have completed two surveys that the planning committees will work with to develop option proposals.

Traastad reported on October / November Family Living Activities:

- Worked with Caregivers Coalition in planning, promoting, and participating in the 2017 Lighten Up For The Holidays event on November 30, 2016. The focus was on memory care and stress management.

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- Taught several Strong Women classes in October and November for instructor. Started coordinating and promotion of the 2017 winter series of classes.
- Attended Family Living Program Conference in Madison where Healthy Families was the focus.
- Attended update webinar on Affordable Care Act insurance.

Pulvermacher reported:

*Colleen and a team of 3 other colleagues submitted a teaching proposal to share their two year project of developing a comprehensive volunteer orientation suitable for ALL Extension volunteers (4-H, Master Gardeners, Teen Court, Master Food Preservers, etc.) to the National Extension Conference on Volunteerism and was delighted to report that the proposal was selected. The conference will be held in April in Asheville, North Carolina. As is her past practice, Colleen will be writing professional development grants to keep the expense to Vernon County to a minimum.

*Much of December is allocated for required state and federal reporting and program planning. Colleen is looking forward to a 4-H Officer Training, which will be held during the holiday break.

Cook-Fuglsang reported:

FoodWise report:

We wrapped up our work in the schools. FoodWise has implemented new assessments for the schools to be able to identify behavior change. I will share that with you next week. I am doing some more work with the food pantries between schools as well.

Focus Project Report:

Karen, Colleen and Sheena presented an in depth information on “Family Fest” where all colleagues in the office and other county agencies / partners collaborated to make event a success. Through active participation Ag Committee members learned how Extension programs are developed, what they are based on, the importance of collaborative community relationships, marketing/promotion, implementation and evaluation.

The needs of families addressed by the event were:

Be more active and engaged with their children

Know low cost resources in the county for recreation and information

Experience healthy foods

Participate in new activities they could replicate with their family members

Exit surveys were given to the parents as a door prize entry form. Participants reported they would try the low cost popcorn making ideas, eat healthier, exercise more, dance, Zumba, reduce screen time of their children, and liked the food ideas given.

Over 27 booths / activities, manned by community partners, were set up in the commercial building at the Vernon County Fair Grounds. About 150 people attended the Friday morning event on August 12, 2016.

Beitlich moved, Easterday seconded to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by: Karen Ehle-Traastad