

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee

Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2017
11:00 a.m. – Erlandson Office Building

Chairman Kevin Larson called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Erlandson Building. Present were: Larson, Mitchell, Easterday, Beitlich, Pulvermacher, Lenzendorf, Cook-Fuglsang, Traastad and Craig Saxe.

The public meeting notice was e-mailed to the Vernon County Computer Department and faxed to the County Clerk on September 28, 2017.

Beitlich moved, Easterday seconded, to approve the minutes as printed. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting date for the committee is set for November 9, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. in the 1st floor conference room.

No visitors from the public were in attendance. Angie Cina from the Vernon County Broadcaster was in attendance.

Easterday moved, Mitchell seconded to approve the September Office Operation Expenses of \$676.30. Easterday moved, Beitlich seconded to approve the Teen Court Expenses of \$765.84. **Motion carried.**

The August and September combination Highlights were given for brief review by committee. Brief comments added by staff on some programs listed in the report.

Traastad thanked the Ag & Extension Education Committee and Finance Committee for supporting the services of three positions in the 2018 budget for the Vernon County office. The needed services proposed for the future were:

- 4-H Program Coordinator
- Youth and Family Educator
- Agriculture Extension Educator

This will increase the contract cost with University Extension by \$4,854.00 over the 2017 contract. With other department budget reductions the total increase in the county department budget was about \$2,800.00.

Traastad also noted that the committee should have received, these past two months, mailed copies of Colleen Pulvermacher's resignation and Karen Ehle-Traastad's retirement.

Traastad reported that the Vernon County Agricultural position was not selected to be posted in the first round of postings this fall for open UW-Extension positions. We assumed due to the position being vacant for three years that it would be one of the first posted.

Traastad also reported writing a letter to Associate Dean, Matt Hanson, addressing the seven point criteria to fill open positions laid out in the September 29, 2017 Cooperative Extension nEXT Generation Newsletter. She felt we met all seven points listed. They were:

- The county has firmly committed to future funding for the position
- The position is the highest priority of the county
- Immediacy of need (e.g., a county with multiple vacancies or no staff at all)
- Continuity of program delivery (e.g., interim appointments that are ending)
- Length of the vacancy (priority given to longer vacancies)
- Position is a high priority for the program
- Position is full-time, rather than a partial FTE

Traastad introduced the WI Grape Growers Association request for the grape equipment and funds left over from past grape grant education monies. She handed out and read a letter from Randy Hartung, President, WI Grape Growers Association. The committee's discussion centered around local grape producers having access to the equipment and monies, and committee expressed they needed to consider the proposal. There was concern expressed that without an Ag position there would be no point person for the association to work with so expressed wanting to keep equipment and money in county until a person is here.

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

Minutes submitted by: Karen Ehle-Traastad