

# Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee

*Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2018  
11:00 a.m. – Erlandson Office Building*

Chairman Kevin Larson called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Erlandson Building. Present were: Larson, Easterday, Beitlich, Mitchell, Craig Saxe, Lenzendorf, Cook-Fuglsang and Morrison.

The public meeting notice was e-mailed to the Vernon County Computer Department and faxed to the County Clerk on February 22, 2018.

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

The next meeting dates for the committee are set for April 18, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in the 2nd floor conference room. Scheduled interviews will follow the regular meeting. And, on April 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 4:30 p.m. there will be more scheduled interviews.

No visitors from the public were in attendance.

Easterday moved, Beitlich seconded to approve the 2018 February Office Operation Expenses of \$82.84. **Motion carried.** Mitchell moved, Easterday seconded to approve the 2018 February Teen Court Expenses of \$822.14. **Motion carried.**

Craig updated the committee on the progress towards filling the vacant educator and coordinator positions in Vernon County. He said that currently there are seven candidates for the Ag Educator position and nine candidates for the 4-H Coordinator position. He had no details, as of yet, on the applications. The state-wide team lined up to review the paper screening and preliminaries would eventually narrow the applicant numbers down to three or four for final interviews. He would like the Ag & Extension's involvement in the final interviews on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. He will try to schedule the times to accommodate the committee supervisors, if possible.

The committee reviewed the Educator's Highlights report. There were just a few questions on some of the projects that have happened with the UW-Extension Office. Sheena Cook-Fuglsang gave a brief educator's report. She explained to the committee that she was out of the office for two weeks due to her daughter's illness and hospitalization. Her teaching is going further into March and she is back at 80%.

Sonya gave a brief report for FoodWise. She hired a new educator in Richland County. Sonya is currently attending monthly meetings at Couleecap in Westby. Couleecap wanted to include low-income representatives so FoodWise became involved. Sonya stated that it's good to be on the committee to see what is happening in the area.

Craig reported that Cooperative Extension will be moved to UW-Madison as a newly created Division. This should facilitate a quick transition, with the least interruptions in services. This

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move shouldn't change what we do locally. Supporting local educational programming will remain our priority.

Statewide we are in the early phases of developing a statewide situational analysis process (needs assessment). The target timeframe for implementation is early summer.

Phil Hewitt has contacted Craig to talk about the Counties need to find additional work space. Phil will be providing a blueprint of the existing office space to help review our space needs.

Easterday moved, Mitchell seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:44 a.m. **Motion carried.**

**Minutes submitted by: Linda Morrison**