

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee

Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2018
11:30 a.m. – Erlandson Office Building

Chairman Kevin Larson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Erlandson Building. Present were: Kevin Larson, Will Beitlich, Frank Easterday, Rod Ofte, Kelli Mitchell, Craig Saxe, Emery Bork, Linda Morrison.

The public meeting notice was e-mailed to the Vernon County Computer Department and faxed to the County Clerk on October 23, 2018.

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

The next meeting date for the committee is set for December 13, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. in the 2nd floor conference room.

No visitors from the public were in attendance.

Easterday moved, Beitlich seconded to approve the 2018 October Office Operation Expenses of \$793.39. **Motion carried.** Ofte moved, Easterday seconded to approve the 2018 October Teen Court Expenses of \$779.83. **Motion carried.**

Bork shared her report for 4-H Coordinator.

- She is still visiting with the various clubs and is also currently collecting charters from them.
- She has a couple more trainings that she will be attending.
- She will be working with the Fair Board on improving the conditions for small animals at the fairgrounds. She plans to attend the Fair Board's December meeting to discuss the situation.
- She explained to the committee some of the instructions from the state in regards to diversity. A discussion on diversity was held.
- Bork explained the Internet Literacy Program to the committee. There is an \$8,000 grant through Microsoft that is available. Microsoft will actually come into the community if awarded.

Bork mentioned to Larson that she will have 4-H enrollment numbers available at the December meeting.

Olson was not in attendance but submitted her report for the Agriculture Educator. Her upcoming programming includes:

- ❖ Pest Management Meeting in Bangor on Nov. 16th
- Nutrient Management meeting for Ag Professionals in Sparta on Nov. 29th
 (working registration on that day)
- Beef Quality Assurance training in Viroqua on Dec. 12th
- ❖ Farm visits with David Kammel from UW-Madison.
- ❖ Attended/attending VEDA meetings on meat plant building & LWCD

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resource meetings.

- ❖ Attending new employee cohort meetings via live webinars, Area 13 & 17 Planning meeting today. All Institute meeting on Dec. 4 – 6th in Madison.
- ❖ Working on Winter programming – Dairy, Beef and farm succession.
- ❖ Dealt with many producer calls and drop-ins regarding harvest and farm financial questions. There is a hemp interest with a Dec. 31st deadline for 2019 planting coming up.

Cook-Fuglsang was not in attendance but submitted the educator report for FoodWise:

- She is teaching at La Farge & Prairie View Elementary.
- Due to some policy, system, and environment changes, she is supporting Kickapoo Elementary in their creation of a school wellness committee.
- Connected with the Living Faith Pantry – Will be a part of the committee overseeing the remodel of the food pantry.
She will be bringing resources to the pantry with regard to food safety & creating an environment to support healthier lifestyles.
- Tried to work with the schools on improving attendance at parent events. Has had 2 successful parent events.
- Collaborating with the principal at La Farge Elementary in efforts of engaging parents of young children in “structured” playdates this winter. (the only licensed childcare facility in town closed). Plan is to provide interactive cooking activities for the parents at these events.
- In early planning stages of collaborating on an existing event with Prairie View staff for families to try to reach parents.

The committee decided to discuss the 2019 educator contract, which is on the agenda, at the December meeting.

Discussion held on refilling Family Living Position. Saxe explained to the committee that he was not here to “sell” the position, but just to give them some visual information to inform them of possible needs in the county. He said that the “boots on the ground” theory seems to work to get things done. The position needs to be filled by a passionate person who will be able to make the right decisions, bring connections to the table, and to address the needs for the county. This would be a half-time position to be shared with Monroe County. The cost for Vernon County would be \$19,951.50. Saxe passed out to the committee a bullet sheet listing some needs for this position in Vernon County. Some items included:

- Behavioral Health (mental health, substance use disorders, stress management)
- Working collaboratively with the Health Department on needs they are NOT able to meet due to funding or limitation in staffing.

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- Access to facilities to help people be physically active – Strong Bodies doesn't have to be geared toward seniors, could be programming for all ages.
- Food Security (Master Gardener programs / Community Garden programs)
- Drug abuse
- Health literacy (connecting people with resources they need to meet needs they may not be aware of – vaccinations, etc.)
- Youth and family programming
- Coalition building
- Need for community events / associations – bringing people together & bridge diversity gap
- Support FoodWise programming
- People look for a local touchpoint or contact person to provide an unbiased, independent perspective (UW-Extension brings *non-biased* research based information to clientele / producers / communities)

Larson made a suggestion to the supervisors that they try and get some feed-back from the other committees that they sit on and to see if any input that is provided would relate to the Family Living position.

A decision on whether to refill this position or to have no position in Vernon County at all will be made at the December committee meeting.

Beitlich moved, Easterday seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by: Linda Morrison