

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee

Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2018

11:00 a.m. – Erlandson Office Building

Chairman Kevin Larson called the meeting to order at 11:12 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, Ashley Olson, Sheena Cook-Fuglsang, Sonya Lenzendorf and Linda Morrison.

The public meeting notice was e-mailed to the Vernon County Computer Department and faxed to the County Clerk on November 28, 2018.

Mitchell moved, Beitlich seconded, to approve the November 8, 2018 minutes as printed. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting date for the committee is set for January 10, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in the UW-Extension 2nd floor conference room.

One visitor from the public was in attendance.

Mitchell moved, Easterday seconded to approve the 2018 November Office Operation Expenses of \$7654.67. **Motion carried.** Beitlich moved, Mitchell seconded to approve the 2018 November Teen Court Expenses of \$803.64. **Motion carried.**

Olson shared her report for Ag Educator:

- She held the BQA training – planning to conduct another in Vernon County as it filled up with 51 producers.
- Attended WWTC Farmer Peer Group meetings in Viroqua and Hillsboro to introduce herself and discuss upcoming programming through UW-Extension.
- She live-streamed the Resilient Farms Conference in this office for producers to come and sit in.
- She will be getting adult mental health first aid certified on December 17th in Menomonie.
- Agronomy update meeting on January 10th for producers in Sparta.
- She has a Dairy Revenue Protection Program meeting on January 22nd for producers in Cashton.
- She will attend the new employee co-hort face to face in Stevens Point on January 16th & 17th.
- The “Shifting Gears” program series will be in Westby late winter. Also, working on programming for this as well as dairy and beef winter / spring workshops.

Bork shared her report for 4-H Coordinator:

- She completed chartering all of the 4-H clubs except for one. Working on chartering the new Small Animal Committee. First meetings for the committee will begin in February.
- She sent out over 700 4-H brochures to elementary school students in their take-home folders.
- Submitted a two page budget report to the Fair Board for new rabbit / poultry set up.
- Updated the Vernon County 4-H Family Handbook and is distributing to leaders.
- Attended two day 4-H training in Merrill.
- Partnering with Driftless Lego for 4Hers in STEM projects.

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- Working on Cloverbud curriculum. Looking into hiring a work/study student for the summer to work with Cloverbuds.
- She reported there are 446 active youth enrolled thus far in 4HOnline. End of last year, there were 487.
- She will be going on maternity leave beginning Dec. 17th.

Cook-Fuglsang shared her report for FoodWise:

- ❖ She wrapped up education at Prairie View and La Farge. Secured planning for Seneca and North Crawford this winter.
- ❖ Taught at Living Faith Food Pantry. Continuing to offer research based info to participants and connecting people with resources from our county partners (i.e. ADRC dietician)
- ❖ Participated in “friends of the pantry” meeting.
- ❖ Attended Youth Mental Health First Aid Training in Madison and the State Conference.

There was a brief discussion on the food pantries. Cook-Fuglsang explained there was a food pantry located at the school, but that it was separate from FoodWise. She also explained how the food pantry at Living Faith works, the space is donated by the church and the pastor’s wife runs it. They are very passionate about the program.

Lenzendorf gave a brief overview. She stated that September ended the year for FoodWise. They reached 400 participants. She explained to the committee that Vernon County does the most as far as the different kinds of education. She explained what “food insecurity” actually means. People are not always sure where their food is coming from which means food insecurity to them. She also stated that Cook-Fuglsang has done a great job in Vernon County and she is always looking for new opportunities for FoodWise.

Discussion held on refilling Family Living Position. Saxe said the discussion for refilling this position was had at last month’s meeting and now is the time for making a decision. Ofte feels there is still a lot of overlap with the duties of this position and what is being done in other county offices. Easterday feels that it isn’t something that we need right now. As no action was taken, the Family Living position will not be refilled at this time.

Discussion held on Teen Court. This will be revisited at a later date.

2019 Educator Contract was discussed. Motion made by Beitlich, seconded by Ofte to approve the 2019 Educator Contracts for Ag Educator and 4-H Coordinator. **Motion carried.** The committee then signed the contract.

Area Extension Director Report. Saxe had nothing additional to report to the committee.

Easterday moved, Ofte seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:04 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by: Linda Morrison