

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2008

Chairman Herb Cornell called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Present were: Cornell, Beitlich, McClelland, Larson, Easterday, Rehbein, Pulvermacher, Miller, Traastad, and Linda Kica.

The public meeting notice/agenda was sent to the Vernon County Broadcaster and the County Clerk's office on June 26, 2008.

Beitlich moved, McClelland seconded, to approve the minutes as sent. Motion carried.

The next monthly meeting will be the day Chancellor Wilson visits Vernon County on August 7, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

There were no visitors in attendance at the meeting.

Traastad reported as of this meeting the committees meeting schedules being developed by Mr. Spenner have not yet been sent.

Cornell read the June office expenses. Beitlich moved, Larson seconded, to approve the June 2008 office expenses of \$4436.30. Motion carried.

Larson moved, Beitlich seconded, to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$636.60. Motion carried

Traastad reported receiving the agenda and registration materials for the WACEC District 2 summer meeting in Baraboo. Those who can attend will need to sign up at the next committee meeting August 7th.

Rehbein reported on June activities: Met with dairy breakfast on the farm committee one more time prior to the dairy breakfast. The breakfast was held on the Steve Pederson Farm just outside the city limits of Westby with over 2,400 people attending. John McClelland served as the breakfast committee chair. For the rainy spell that we were in, it was a beautiful day with heavy rains hitting at 12:45 p.m. when just about everything was cleaned up. Met again with the Holstein Breeders to plan the twilight meeting for in July. Also met with the meat animal sale committee of the Vernon County Fair to discuss plans for the 2008 fair and sale. Discussion still continues on who will auctioneer the sale. It is Gary Olerud's turn but he has stated that because another auctioneer did it last year, he would not be interested in doing it ever again. As a result of heavy rains and flooding again on Sunday, June 8th, (anywhere from 5-10 inches of rain), time was spent in the county's EOC to help with operations, specifically helping the public relations officer. Time was also spent during the week and following weeks assessing crop and farm damage around the county. Helped the Wisconsin State Fair Junior Dairy exhibitors get ready for the 2008 fair. They met to complete fair entries that had to be sent in via the UW-Extension Office. We have more male youth attending than we have beds for. One option is to have a chaperone stay with 3 youth at an area hotel. Met with Sue Noble from the Vernon County Economic Development Association and an economic development specialist from the Eau Claire office at Vernon Vineyards to discuss the wine industry and what it would take to see more development in the industry. On Thursday, June 19th, a tour of the flood damage was given to Secretary of

Agriculture, Rod Nilsestuen. Along on the tour was Kelly Jacobs and Paul Krahn from the Land Conservation Office and Citizens First Bank, Loan Officer Eric Nottestad from the Viola Branch. The secretary was impressed by the damage but also how well many of the conservation practices did work. Assisted with the Youth Tractor Safety Driving Class held June 25, 26 and 27. Forty youth were trained and certified. The high school ag instructors again were instrumental in carrying out the class.

Miller reported on June activities:

Pulvermacher reported on June activities: Early June activities were covered in last month's report. Colleen worked with the State Fair Dairy committee, youth and Tim Rehbein to coordinate the paperwork required for State Fair entries. All entries were turned in on time and processed and mailed within a week to comply with State Fair deadlines. Colleen expressed her appreciation to Tim for his animal expertise and help in this process. Colleen also noted Tom Leum was excellent to work with as State Fair Dairy coordinator. Colleen is now working with State Fair on parking passes and is confident she can work out a bargain with another county. (Before the meeting had ended Colleen received a message that she had indeed made a deal with Adams County for a parking pass!) A Federation meeting followed by a scholarship reception was held with five recipients being honored. Three hundred dollar scholarship recipients include Steven Rebhahn, Allie Wheeler, Tallitha Reese, Brianna Anderson, all 2008 high school graduates and Brandon Nigh, current student at Iowa State University. The 4-H Clothing Revue was held with 18 youth participating. An issue came up as one parent contacted Colleen questioning why all the entries weren't judged as blue ribbons. Colleen, in collaboration with Karen, responded to the parent by reviewing judge's guidelines and Colleen took things one step further by responding to the parent with concern over the mentality that youth must always get first place. Colleen spoke as an educator, indicating these incredibly high standards, often parent-initiated, are not healthy or attainable for our youth. Youth, to be really ready for the outside world, must learn to accept the fact they that will not always "win," whether it be a sewing contest, the top test score or a job interview. Cloverbud Camp was held in Viroqua this year since Readstown was rained out. Twenty two youth in attendance and 8 parents. Many people expressed appreciation for having this event in Viroqua rather than Readstown. Vernon County 4-H was very well represented at Area Animal Science Days, where the dairy judging team, jr. and sr., qualified to go to State! That event will be held in a few weeks in Polk County. Colleen and Dani had planned a ShareShop educational program for June but received no registrations. Colleen believes the flood simply became the focus of people's attention and plans to offer this program again in the future. Tractor Safety had 30 youth and all of them passed the written and driving tests. Excellent communication and cooperation with the area Ag teachers makes this class flow smoothly. We will have an extra expense of a trailer jack as one was broken accidentally. Colleen represented the Vernon County office at the southern district wis-line with district director, Dick Pederson. Raffle tickets are going well. Colleen has sold 15 herself and is ready to sell more! Summer camp at Upham Woods is all set except that we need another male chaperone. Colleen has some ideas she will pursue regarding this. New this year, Colleen is organizing a camp counselor-chaperone meeting prior to camp so everyone gets to know one another and is clear on what the expectations and roles are at camp. Colleen said she is cooking tonight, actually, the Leader Parent Federation annual picnic is tonight at 8 p.m. and Colleen would be tickled to see lots of Ag & Ext members and their families there!

Traastad reported on June activities:

Worked with the Dairy Promotion Committee on the June Dairy Breakfast held June 7th. It was a great event with good working committees and about 2200 people attending.

Working with the Housing Element of the County Comprehensive Plan and involving the Vernon County Housing Coalition to help with this work. Armand Bringe is the Housing Element chairman and is attending coalition meetings. Hope to gather data and public input by fall.

Attended the county Comprehensive Planning Commission meeting, Citizen Advisory Committee organizational meeting and the first neighborhood meeting in Chaseburg. Working with Lynn Chakoian, Chairman of Planning Commission, to organize Neighborhood Meetings. Lynn developed a timeline to gather public input and write the Smart Growth Plan for county board approval.

Was asked to serve on the Post Tenure State Committee for Department of Family Development. All meetings will be by teleconference to save travel.

Attended Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committee annual meeting in Stevens Point for the awards luncheon only. Richard Hansen, past committee chairman, received his 10-year plaque for service to the Agricultural and Extension Education Committee.

Helped with the 4-H Clothing Revue event.

Attended monthly county Department Head meeting.

Linda Kica presented policy update information on personnel issues to the committee and staff.

Beitlich moved, Easterday seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.