

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2008

Chairman Herb Cornell called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. Present were Cornell, McClelland, Larson, Rehbein, Pulvermacher, and Traastad.

The public meeting notice/agenda was sent to the County Clerk's office on July 31, 2008 and the Vernon County Broadcaster on August 1, 2008.

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

The next monthly meeting will be September 8, 2008, at 11:00 a.m.

There were no visitors in attendance at the meeting.

The new committee schedule was discussed with the notice that not all committees have changed to the new schedule yet.

Materials were handed out on the Wisconsin Associated Counties Extension Committee District meeting to be held near Baraboo August 21st.

Larson moved, McClelland seconded, to preauthorize Traastad to have checks cut for office expenses that are not in sequence with monthly committee meetings if the amount of office funds spent are \$500 or less. Motion carried.

Cornell read the July office expenses. McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to approve the July 2008 office expenses of \$3115.53. Motion carried.

McClelland moved, Larson seconded to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$617.80. Motion carried.

Discussion held on the 2009 budget development and challenges. More research and figures will be brought to the September meeting.

Traastad reported on July activities:

Worked with the Vernon County Housing Coalition filling the role as the Housing Element Committee for Comprehensive Planning. The group decided what data is needed to complete an inventory and trends report for housing currently in Vernon County.

Attended and helped at the seven Neighborhood meetings with Lynn Chakoian as part of comprehensive planning. The process gathered many ideas and similar themes/issues are emerging across the county.

Attended the State Family Living Care Givers Team meeting in Stevens Point. State dollars paid the mileage.

Completed the committee work for the Department of Family Development in reading and critiquing eight post-tenure papers. These were written as a faculty requirement in the Department and UW-Extension.

Attended the Child Care Resource Referral regional board in Lancaster. Filling the Vernon County representative role on the board.

Conducted two financial counseling appointments this past month. Answered phone calls on budget/local financial resources needed.

Worked with fair committee on the Fairest of the Fair event.

Rehbein reported on July activities: With all the spring and early summer moisture and cooler temperatures, vineyards are showing up with disease problems. A number of vineyard visits were conducted for disease identification and spray recommendations. Assisted

the Vernon County Holstein Association with carrying out the annual twilight meeting. It was hosted at Rob and Kari Anderson's farm just outside of Westby on Lovaas Ridge Road. The Friday evening was under threat of rain but it did hold off until late that night. Over 300 people attended. Guest speaker was David Kammel, UW-Extension Ag Engineer who talked about dairy modernization work he has been doing in the Ukraine and Belarus. Hosted the annual summer vineyard walk at Whispering Pines Vineyards – Ron and Karen Haakenson of rural Westby. Seventy people from Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota attended the event. Our guest speaker was Dick Weidman, the superintendent of the UW-Madison Ag Research Station at Sturgeon Bay, WI. He talked about their vineyard demonstration plot and on a research project on grape varieties that just started this spring. The event was held on Saturday, July 12. At state UW-Extension travel expense, assisted with manning the dairy modernization booth at Farm Technology Days in Brown County on Wednesday, July 16. Due to a severe thunderstorm warning issued at 1:15 p.m. the grounds were closed early that day. Also, at state expense, participated in the UW-Center for Cooperatives Advisory Board Meeting in Madison. It was reported that there are currently 16 ethanol plants in the U.S. currently in bankruptcy. At the invitation of the Illinois Grape Growers organization, a presentation on grape IPM was given at their summer vineyard walk meeting on Saturday July 19th. Travel expenses for this meeting will be reimbursed by the Illinois growers. The Vernon County Fair Meat Animal Sale Committee no longer requires youth exhibiting in the swine department to have the pork quality assurance training prior to the fair- but now the Wisconsin State Fair does. Two Vernon County youth were trained and certified under Wisconsin's Meat Animal Quality Assurance Program which allowed the youth to exhibit at the 2008 State Fair. Provided guidance to the state fair dairy youth group heading down to state fair. There are more boys attending than we have beds for so a parent has agreed to stay at an area hotel room with the 3 youngest boys. Assisted the Vernon County Cattlemen's Association with conducting their annual "July is Beef Month" beef promotion. This year it was held at the Vernon County Fairgrounds. On Friday morning, July 25th, a beef leader called the Extension Office to say that a youth beef exhibitor may not have his 2008 steer under his management. So, a farm visit was conducted Friday night to the farm with Lloyd Hardy, Chair of the meat animal sale committee and the two junior beef superintendents, Eric Yttri and Dave Roethel. The steers that the exhibitor did weigh in back in April were at his farm. The main topics for phone calls in July were land rents and hay prices.

Pulvermacher reported on July activities: Colleen began by thanking the Ag & Extension Committee members for attending the Federation picnic. Canoe camp only had 5 registered. Dani supervised the group. Colleen would like to see a minimum registration of 12 to hold this camp next year. Leader's Retreat held at Cashton was well attended by 18 leaders. Colleen introduced the upcoming 4-H state mandated chartering process as part of this training. Colleen initiated a new meeting between camp counselors and chaperones the week before camp and this was held and proved useful at camp. Ninety eight were in attendance at summer camp. That number includes counselors, chaperones and agents. Dani organized a 4-H softball tournament with about 40 kids participating and a dozen or so parents. State Fair is going well and county fair entry day was yesterday and that also went well. Colleen expressed appreciation to Bill Marohl and Ann Peterson for their assistance all day yesterday. Colleen is very appreciative of the cooperative relationship we have with our fair board.

Larson moved, McClelland seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.