

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2008

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

The public meeting amended notice/agenda was sent to the County Clerk's office on August 28, 2008 and the Vernon County Broadcaster on August 29, 2008.

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

The next monthly meeting will be October 13, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

There were no visitors in attendance at the meeting.

A new committee meeting schedule dated August 28, 2008 was handed out to members.

Cornell read the August office expenses. McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$669.31. Motion carried.

Beitlich moved, Easterday seconded, to approve the August 2008 office operations expenses of \$1417.45. Motion carried.

Discussion held on the 2009 budget development and challenges. Larson moved, McClelland seconded, to cut the 2009 office operations budget by \$6150 to stay with a zero percent budget increase. Motion carried.

Traastad discussed the agent annual contracts received from UW-Extension business office in Madison. They represent a two percent salary increase for the state contract year of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to approve the agent 133 contract renewal. Motion carried.

Traastad gave a brief report on August activities:

Reviewed 2008 budget expenses so far this year and worked on 2009 budget development.

Helped with Comprehensive Planning Neighborhood meetings at Kickapoo Reserve.

Promoted next sessions of Strong Women for Viroqua and LaFarge. Taught one informational meeting on the subject. Updated participants' files.

Participated in comprehensive planning county committee meeting and Vernon County Housing Coalition monthly meeting. Also participated in the Intergovernmental Element Committee meeting.

Held a Reality Daze core committee meeting/teleconference to get the planning started for this year's high school event.

Picked up milk crates used for Dairy Breakfast from Viola. Returned them to La Crosse Kwik Trip headquarters. The deposit for the crates is supposed to be returned to Dairy Promotion committee.

Rehbein gave a brief report on August activities: Assisted the Cattlemen with planning their annual steer fitting and showing clinic; Held the first nutrient management meeting to discuss how farmland preservation and the new state laws fit into the Vernon County picture; Participated in two Holstein steer production and marketing webinars for professional development; Planned and conducted

the first IPM (integrated pest management) grape field day at Vernon Vineyards; Met with the dairy promotion committee to plan fair activities; met with the new UW-Extension Ag and Natural Resources Extension Director and surrounding county ag agents; Met with the meat animal sale committee to make final decisions for the 2008 fair; Attended the August Fair Board meeting to report on animal housing needs; Participated in another webinar professional development training with the topic this time on COOL – country of origin labeling; Authored and submitted a grant application to the north central region SARE office for a grant to pay for training other ag agents on grape production; Attended a state professional development in Wisconsin Dells on trying to understand the impact of the value of the dollar and oil barrel prices on agriculture inputs and commodity prices.

Pulvermacher reported on August activities: Teen Court statistics were distributed and briefly discussed. Since 2005 110 youth have been served by Teen Court. The most common violations are underage drinking, ATV violations and disorderly conduct. In August four cases were processed. Colleen is going to work with jurors on appropriate dress when they serve as jurors. Colleen explained she has a new mentor (4-H Youth Development Agent from Iowa County) whose primary role will be to mentor me through the tenure process which Colleen commented on being a bit anxious about. Colleen attended a tenure orientation workshop with her mentor. Colleen attended the WACEC meeting along with the Cornells and Dani. Dani's last day was August 22nd and she did an excellent job. Colleen participated in a camp wrap up meeting with Richland and Crawford Counties. Next year each county will do their own Cloverbud Camp. Colleen supports this idea because it is the most economical for our Vernon County families and meets the needs for our Cloverbuds (grades K – 2). Colleen will be taking a close look at the feasibility of doing canoe camp with other counties and believes right now our needs would best be met by doing our own canoe camp. Colleen conducted a ShareShop: Putting Your Best Foot Forward where youth learned about the process of applying and for jobs and other opportunities such as 4-H awards and trips. There were only 5 youth present but the response to the program was positive. Next year when Colleen offers this program she will avoid the back to school week! Colleen has been in communication with Rockford Map Publishing. They want to do a platbook and checked to see if the 4-H was planning to do one. The 4-H isn't doing a platbook as a fundraiser. Some businesses have contacted Colleen to see what % the 4-H is given by supporting the platbook – of course 4-H won't benefit at all, so Colleen has asked the Rockford map company to make that very clear to businesses who may opt to purchase an ad. Colleen enjoyed vacation in August and is looking forward to the fair!

McClelland moved, Beitlich seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.