

## **Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee**

### ***Monthly Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2008***

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

The public meeting notice/agenda was sent to the Vernon County Broadcaster, the County Clerk's office and Computer Department on October 31, 2008.

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

The next monthly meeting will be December 8, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. and the January meeting will be on January 12, 2009.

There were no visitors in attendance at the meeting.

Cornell read the October office expenses. Beitlich moved, Larson seconded, to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$664.16. Motion carried. McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to approve the office operations expenses of \$2291.72. Motion carried.

#### ***Traastad highlighted Pulvermacher's written summary of October activities:***

November 5, 2008

I am not able to join you today, so here is my October update: Vernon County 4-H was represented at the Fall Forum in Wausau by an adult and youth volunteer. Teen Court Advisory Board offered training focused on restorative justice and youth facilitation for adult volunteers. We have been advertising the need for more adult volunteers and have had responses from nine people so far. We will hold an introductory session on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. for these community folks to learn more about the role of serving on the Advisory Board. The 4-H Plus program is a state purchased 4-H database and it has come with some challenges. Cindy has done a remarkable job of keeping up with it all. Currently we are ready to begin new enrollments but the program is experiencing difficulties, so we are at a standstill. Help has been requested from the state and we are hoping to hear from them soon. Joe, in the county IT department has been helpful in this process with the county computer support. Meetings attended in October include district meeting in Madison; Guest Meeting, Upham Woods; 4-H Plus Training, Madison. Super Saturday was held Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and served 42 youth. The day focused on sewing skills. Eight trip award applications were received and are being scored by the Recognition Committee. This is a disappointing number to me and I will work on generating more interest in these opportunities. I am scheduled to present a session at the North Central Regional Volunteer Forum at Ohio University Nov. 6-9<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to the opportunity and hope to make you all proud! I will be back in the office Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

***Rehbein reported on October activities:*** Met with the dairy promotion committee to finalize plans for the dairy and coop gala event which was held on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Over 100 people attended the event. The Vernon County Cooperative Association presented two coop awards, one to Ron and Sandy Iverson and also to Joe and Darcy McClelland. The Dairy Promotion Committee presented two awards, the Friend of the Dairy Industry went to Carter and Ramona Thompson and the Restaurant of the Year went to The Hide-A-Way in Chaseburg. The wine tasting featured wine from Vernon Vineyards, Eagles Landing, Wollersheim Winery and Spurgeon's Winery. Assisted two newer grape growers with marketing their grapes at the end of the growing season. They both initially had their grapes sold to two different wineries of which both backed out from buying their grapes at the last minute. One shipment of grapes went to New Ulm Minnesota and the others went to Trout Springs Winery in Brown County, Wisconsin and to Lautenbach's Orchard Country Winery in Door County, Wisconsin. Special arrangements were made with Lautenbach's because they did not have a grape crusher/stemmer to process the grapes. The county's unit was sent with the grower for the winery to use and then picked up at a later date. Participated in a teleconference with other county ag agents who are going to use the RFID animal tag system for the first time in 2009. Met with the junior and open class dairy

superintendents of the Vernon County Fair along with representatives of the Dairy Champion Ribbon Sale Committee to recommend changes for the 2009 fair. Some of the changes proposed include allowing exhibitors to show more animals and making changes to the managerial program. Met with the NRCS work group to provide input for the upcoming cost share year for conservation practices. Taught the first classes for the "Farmer Training" of the nutrient management classes that have just started. A class was held in Viroqua and one in Chaseburg. By the end of the series of classes, farmers should be able to write and then update their own nutrient management plan. Attended the southern district all faculty meeting in Madison. Specific topics discussed at the district meeting were biomass energy and other green energies. Participated in the annual Ag and Natural Resources Extension Conference in Wisconsin Dells. This is a meeting where all the ag agents from around the state come into a 3 day meeting with all the University Extension Specialists for professional development, updates and program planning. Specific for Vernon County was a training on the soil sampling procedure strictly for the purpose of meeting the legal requirements of the nutrient management plan. Other topics from the conference included plans for programs with the fruit team in 2009, update on the dairy modernization survey, carbon credits and hearing from the UW-Extension Chancellor, the Deans at UW-Platteville and River Falls and a national extension program leader from USDA in Washington. Several days and half days of vacation were also taken in October to spear-head a project of moving the old commercial building to a new site. The old commercial building is a 30 X 80 foot pole shed. The phone call question of the month was "how much is a dead rabbit worth".

***Traastad reported on September and October activities:***

Worked with the Vernon County Housing Coalition both months by leading the Housing Visioning session in September. This public meeting solicited input and ideas on housing issues in Vernon County from twenty-one people. Summarized the information for use with the Housing element for the county's comprehensive planning work.

Completed the annual report for the county's budget book given to all Supervisors.

Completed the preparation of 2009 department budget. Met with finance committee twice to work out a zero percent increase in the budget.

Worked some with Vernon County fair board, superintendents and judges for the 128<sup>th</sup> annual event.

Taught two informational sessions on the Strong Women program in Viroqua and La Farge. Three fall sessions will be held starting September 9 and running through November 27, 2008. There are 51 enrolled in the fall classes, totally 122 women for the 2008 year.

Taught the session "Math For Every Age" at the Together For Children conference held for child care providers at Western Technical College in Viroqua. It was held Saturday, September 20, 2008, with 25 attending my session.

Offered financial counseling for one individual in September.

Tried to tape the October Kid Care satellite program to use with teaching providers in Vernon County. Due to equipment failure had to cancel this month's program and will save until a later time.

Reviewed food preservation materials to be sure we have latest, updated bulletins from UW-Extension. Ordered a supply as receiving more requests for home preservation of food information. Met with Westby public librarian to review their materials for check out.

Started the plans for 2009 Reality Daze event to be held in March. Met with the core planning committee in October to get things started and developed agenda for the November all-school meeting.

Attended Comprehensive Planning Commission meetings to report what the Housing Element is working on.

Attended District faculty meetings in Madison, Department Head meetings with Dick Pederson in Sauk County and by teleconference.

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