

## Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee

### *Monthly Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2009*

Vice-chairman Will Beitlich called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Present were: Beitlich, McClelland, Larson, Traastad, Rehbein and Pulvermacher.

The public meeting notice/agenda was sent to the Vernon County Broadcaster, county clerk, personnel and computer departments for posting on January 29, 2009.

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

The next monthly meeting will be March 9, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

There were no visitors in attendance.

Beitlich read the January 2009 office expenses. Larson moved, McClelland seconded, to approve the office expenses of \$2,451.27. Motion carried. McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$689.82.

***Rehbein reported on December 2008 and January 2009 activities:*** Several more sessions of the nutrient management training course were held in Viroqua and Chaseburg. Participants are at the end of the training and will be finishing their soil sampling in spring. Attended a regional meeting on preserving working lands initiative in Holmen. Conducted the winter meeting for the area grape growers. The 2009 growing season was characterized as a poor one with a late start in spring and lower than normal growing season temperatures. Attended the Vernon County Ag Society Annual Meeting to receive the Friend of the County Fair Award along with Lloyd Hardy and Chad Williams from C & C Landscaping. Attended a nutrient management professional development with more time going to be spent in 2009 in that area. Met with the Cattlemen Board to discuss plans for the mid-winter meeting and their twilight meeting. Attended the December southern district ag agent meeting at the West Madison Ag Research Farm to discuss ways to make more use of webinars for trainings and for clientele. Met with a group of 5 winery owners who requested help in forming a small winery distribution cooperative to comply with the new Wisconsin Act 85 law. It was a squeeze but they made the Dec. 31 deadline for formation of the cooperative. In January, attended the first ever annual meeting of the Wisconsin Grape Growers Association at Wisconsin Dells. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Fresh Fruit and Veggie State Conference. There were 88 folks in attendance for the first meeting. A presentation on marketing wine grapes was also given as part of the conference offerings. Due to low numbers the regional meeting of the Dairy Road Show was cancelled. Conducted farm visits with the ag engineer to a smaller dairy producer outside of Westby that needed assistance with locating a roofed barn yard. This was in cooperation with the land conservation department. The other farm visit was to a large dairy operation near Hillsboro with a calf barn ventilation problem. Attended the Minnesota Grape Growers Association Annual Meeting to report on the formation of the Wisconsin Association. Again connected to nutrient management, attended the state crop management conference in Madison for more professional development. A training session on Snap-Plus was attended. This is a computer software package that can be used by farmers to help them prepare a nutrient management plan. This training was used to co-teach a session with Ben from Land Conservation to the Vernon County class. Helped as the discussion meet moderator at the FFA Speaking Contest in La Farge. Met with the Meat Animal Sale Committee at their annual meeting to set weigh-in dates and ear tagging procedures for the 2009 fair. The sale clerking was also discussed. At this point in time, Badgerland Financial will do the clerking for the 2009 sale. Attended the Tri-State Area Beef Days in Prairie du Chien to hear a presentation on what the beef market might be doing for 2009. Also learned about the mandatory country of origin labeling. Met with the board of directors for the Badger State

Winery Cooperative to review their newly written by-laws. They are preparing to hopefully start business by April of 2009. The question of the month for January was “how to grow hops for beer production”.

***Pulvermacher reported on December and January activities:*** Colleen reported she spent much of December doing year-end reporting including statistical reports, plans of work, accomplishment reports and success stories. All of these are required by the Department of Youth Development. Colleen’s mother became seriously ill in late December and Colleen took a leave of absence to care for her, returning to work after her mother’s death in late January. Colleen did attend a Department of Youth Development Tenure Workshop in Wausau and taught at the Youth-Adult Partnership Conference in Spring Green at the end of the month. Colleen expressed appreciation to everyone for their support and understanding during this difficult time and is happy to be back at work.

***Traastad reported on January activities:*** Worked with the Vernon County Housing Coalition to develop survey questions for the county-wide Comprehensive Planning survey. These questions will be used for the Housing Element part of the plan.

Attend the Comprehensive Plan Commission meeting and the Citizen Advisory Committee meeting for the comprehensive plan.

Working with the Home and Community organization on plans for upcoming Saturday program “Cabin Fever Day.” Will involve a county nurse to co-teach the “using internet for medical information” topic.

Taught a professional development program for the Family and Children agency staff. Talked about financial counseling and resources available for the public in need.

Strong Women classes started again in January and will run through March. Three will be running, basic Strong Women in Viroqua and La Farge and Super Strong Women in Viroqua.

Working with 10 schools if plan Reality Daze for high school juniors or seniors. It is set for March 18, at the WTC campus in Viroqua.

Sonya Lenzendorf started February 2, 2009, for the Wisconsin Food and Nutrition program. She will work both in Crawford and Vernon counties.

Larson moved, McClelland seconded, , to enter into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Personnel Chapter 10, Sub-chapter IV, Section 19.85 (1)(c) for consideration of annual performance evaluation of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction. Motion carried unanimously. No nay votes were heard.

McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to reconvene to open session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(2). Motion carried unanimously. No nay votes were heard.

McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to rate Colleen Pulvermacher at a “successful performance” rating for the 2008 program year. Motion carried.

Traastad will place this motion and evaluation form on file with Dick Pederson, UW-Madison District Director, and the county personnel office.

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