

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2009

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

The public meeting notice/agenda was sent to the Vernon County Broadcaster, County Clerk, Human Resources and Computer departments for postings on February 25, 2009.

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

The next monthly meeting will be April 13, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

There were no visitors in attendance.

Cornell read the February office expenses. Larson moved, McClelland seconded, to approve the office expenses of \$2839.54 and special accounts expenses of \$661.54. Motion carried.

Beitlich moved, McClelland seconded, to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$600. Motion carried.

Karen introduced Sonya Lenzendorf, the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Coordinator, shared with Crawford County. This is a federally funded program to provide food and nutrition information to food stamp eligible audiences and work with groups that provide in-kind matching non-federal funds.

Pulvermacher reported on February activities: Colleen reported that she attended the Crucial Conversations training held in Tomah along with Karen, Brenda and Cindy. This meeting replaces the usual all-faculty meeting in Madison. Colleen carpoled to Tomah with a Richland County Extension Agent. Colleen attended the Vernon County Volunteer Coordinators monthly meeting and will be leading the next one in March. Super Saturday planning is underway for an Animal Clinic in conjunction with Nelson Agri-Center. The event has been scheduled for Saturday, April 18th at the fairgrounds. The Agri-Center staff and Tim have been very helpful in planning this event. Colleen expressed concern about the lack of applications for summer camp counselors. To date we only have received two applications. Colleen taught Volunteer Orientation twice last week training 13 new adult volunteers. Arts Fest planning is well underway and the schedules should be available soon. Colleen submitted a department paper on Leader Retreats and the paper needs further revision but Colleen is optimistic that this paper will move forward this spring for publication in the department of youth development. Colleen met with the new Youth Ambassador advisor, Dave Russell, to develop a shared vision and goals for this group. Teen Court service agreement was discussed and Colleen also explained that she has created a Teen Court Adult Volunteer Application form which includes a background check. The fee for Teen Court background checks is \$5 each, so that expense will appear on future Teen Court account records. To date we have 2 new Teen Court adult volunteers. Colleen explained that interviews for the 4-H summer assistant will be coming up the week of April 8th. Please contact her if you are interested in this opportunity.

Rehbein reported of February activities: Served as moderator for the Discussion Meet at the sectional FFA speaking contest in La Farge. The contest scores the FFA members on their abilities to properly debate a highly political topic in agriculture. As the official Cooperative Extension Service representative, met with the Wisconsin Grape Growers

Association Board for their first official board meeting following the elections in January. Officers were elected and activities were planned for the upcoming year. A grape grower bus tour to the Michigan State University Viticulture Field Day in July is one of those activities. At the request of the Minnesota Grape Growers Association, gave a presentation at their cold climate on beginning pruning. Three days prior to the presentation there were 132 people registered and by the time the presentation started, there were over 200 people in attendance. MGGA paid for the hotel room and conference registration for speaking at the conference. Attended the Michigan State University Winery Establishment Conference in Benton Harbor, MI, with a potential new winery owner from Madison. The winemaker is planning to open a winery in the fall of 2009 and purchase all Wisconsin grown grapes for his wine. Along with Kelly Jacobs and the Vernon County Land Conservation Office and the Vernon County Cattlemen's Association, organized, planned and conducted a winter beef meeting on using the best beef genetics to get the most from your pastures. The program was very well attended. It was held at the Rockton Bar. Over 80 people attended. Kelly wrote for a local SARE grant to help pay expenses and the cattlemen helped pay for the meal. Met with an elderly small dairy producer who wants to rent out his farm and barns and dairy cows to a younger neighbor. The pros and cons were covered and the financial impacts that various options would have. The questions for the month were on the status of the Olson Mill grain facility in Viroqua, if they are bankrupt or just what was going on with them. The grain security office at WDATCP was utilized many times.

Traastad reported on February activities: Attended the Child Care Resource Referral regional board meeting in Lancaster. Represent Vernon County on the board.

Worked with the Caregiver Coalition in planning and promoting the Powerful Tools for Caregiver class. New brochures are developed and hope to offer the 6-session class in April and May.

Attended Housing Coalition meeting to solicit groups for help and ideas for comprehensive plan's housing element.

Gave the presentation "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate" on transferring non-titled property to a women's church group.

Conducted three budget counseling sessions in February. Developed the news release "Dealing With a Drop In Income" and information materials for public and NCR employees on dealing with reduced income.

Taped several sessions on Reality Daze with Karen Dahl for promotion of Reality Daze. Working with core committee to finalize plans for the event. Presented on the program at Rotary lunch meeting.

Work with Domestic Abuse Council on plans for future fund raiser. Funds will provide emergency supplies for abuse victims leaving their homes.

Attended Comprehensive Plan Commission where the county mail survey was worked on. Plans are to send 670 surveys out to a randomized list of Vernon County citizens in March.

Attended the all-staff and faculty inservice training in Tomah. The workshop was on communication entitled "Critical Conversation."

Attended the county department head meeting where computer and equipment inventory was discussed.

WNEP Update – Sonya Lenzendorf

In 2009, WNEP has agreements set up to provide Nutrition Education in La Farge Elementary School, Head Start and Senior Meal Sites. We also are providing the Health Department with Nutrition Newsletters to provide to WIC clients. In 2010, I am planning on adding education during WIC clinics, a school and a food pantry.

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