

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2009

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

The public meeting notice/agenda was sent to the Vernon County Broadcaster on April 3, 2009 and County Clerk and Computer Departments on April 6, 2009.

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

The next monthly meeting will be May 11, 2009.

There were no visitors in attendance.

Cornell read the March office expenses. McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to approve the office expenses of \$3,109.58. Motion carried. McClelland moved, Easterday seconded, to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$714.76. Motion carried.

Traastad announced Chancellor Wilson will visit Vernon and Crawford counties on June 25, 2009. The committee will be invited to be part of the program we plan for that morning.

Traastad announced the Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committee annual conference will be June 15 and 16, 2009, in La Crosse. Details on registration and programs will be coming shortly.

Pulvermacher reported on March activities: Super Saturday is scheduled for April 18th and the theme is animal clinic. Currently 67 youth and 40 parents are registered. Colleen expressed thanks to Tim and Nelson Agri Center for their collaboration on this project. Summer camp plans are coming along. Vernon County has four camp counselors and as a tri-county camp, we have eight counselors. Registrations are sluggish at this point, but with many people laid off this is not totally unexpected. Colleen was delighted to have recruited a professional storyteller for camp, Reid Miller. Colleen negotiated a bargain with Reid so this addition to camp won't break our camp budget. Arts Fest was held in March with 90 youth participating. This is the first time a Saturday has been scheduled and it seemed to work out well. Colleen complimented that Arts Fest committee, led by Deb Primmer, who did an excellent job. A clothing meeting was held with 11 in attendance, youth and adults. A great meeting with ideas and energy. Four 4-H scholarships will be awarded in June. State Youth Conference orientation has been done for our one delegate. Colleen hopes to get more youth interested in this opportunity in the future. Colleen attended the blood borne pathogen county training along with Tim and Karen. Colleen served on the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) conference planning committee and was in Madison for the entire conference. Colleen stayed with relatives so no expenses were incurred for lodging. Teen Court has three cases this month, two disorderly and one underage drinking. Three new adult volunteers have had background checks completed. Volunteer training is scheduled for later this summer. Colleen, along with John Spears, Sheriff's Dept., Kathy Ames-Sherry, CouleeCAP and Jim Lee, Human Services, taught a session via webinar on lessons learned in developing and sustaining Teen Court. This was taught to coalitions who have just received federal drug free grant monies. Colleen related this is the new teaching trend, using technology to reach many people. While it has its advantages, it is a little unnerving to teach to total silence and only questions at the end. National Volunteer Week is April 19-26th. In celebration of this, the Vernon County Volunteer Coordinators gathered together last week here to meet with Angie Cina from the Broadcaster to explain our group's purpose and mission. It is hoped that this article will be published next week. Colleen will be taking family and medical leave next week to deal with issues related to the care of her mother's estate and her father's health.

Lenzendorf reported on March activities: I am currently going into LaFarge School and providing nutrition education to Grades 1-4 each week. Last week we talked about the Grain food group and trying to make half of the grains you eat be whole grains. I showed them what different grains look like and also compared whole wheat flour to white flour. At the end we made a whole grain snack mix with cereal, nuts, raisins and dried cranberries. The classes seem to enjoy the lessons. I have a state-wide new educator training next week in Wausau and starting to work on agreements for FY 2010. Plan to work with schools, food pantries, WIC and Senior Meal Sites.

Rehbein reported on March activities: Gave a presentation on the risks of starting a new farm business enterprise (grapes) to the Heart of the Farm participants in Eau Claire. Expenses were reimbursed by the Dairy Center for Profitability. Met with the Dairy Promotion committee to see if we can still get a dairy breakfast planned. One idea is to have Accelerated Genetics, Westby Cooperative Creamer and Heartland sponsor it. Attended the first ever information meeting on hop production. If harvesting and processing can get figured out with more human labor and not as much equipment, it may be another alternative crop to tobacco. Conducted private pesticide applicator training classes in Hillsboro and two in Viroqua. Conducted the annual pruning demonstration at the Haakenson vineyard. This year there were only 30 in attendance....which is good. For the first time, there were two other pruning demonstrations held on other parts of the state so growers did not have to all travel to Vernon County. Met with the fair board to iron out some scheduling details for the steer, hog and sheep weigh ins and also the animal clinic coming up on April 18th. Attended the county mandated training on blood borne pathogens. Assisted the Vernon County Cattlemen in conducting their annual twilight meeting held this year on the farm of Howard White. Over 80 folks attended to hear Dave Kammel UW-Extension Ag Engineer speak on coral design and layout. Conducted a grape pruning workshop at Garvin Heights Winery just outside of Winona, MN. The owners/operators of it are Marv and Linda Seppanen. They have been strong supporters of the grape project in Vernon County and have been coming to our meetings, religiously, for the past 8 years. The favor was returned. Attended the National Extension Service Viticulture Conference in Oklahoma City. Grape specialist from around the country gather to discuss what programs are working in grape production and wine quality and how to try to secure more funding. The group is in the process of forming an "eXtension" web system to answer questions for clientele around the country.

Traastad reported on March activities: Attended the statewide conference for Department Heads in Wisconsin Rapids. Offered financial counseling for one individual in March. Attended with Colleen a 4-H clothing leader and member meeting on ideas for Clothing Revue to be held this summer. Participated in the monthly Vernon County Housing Coalition meeting. Some work done on the Housing element chapter in this meeting. Helped organize, promote and taught at the Cabin Fever Day event offered by the Vernon County Home and community organization. The program taught with Trish Helgerson, county nurse, was "Health Information on the Internet." Coordinated with nine school systems the Reality Daze financial event. This was the seventh annual event held March 18, 2009, at the Western Technical College campus in Viroqua. It was attended by junior or senior high school students. Cashton High School joined us for the first time this year. Started three new Strong Women classes the end of March. Informational presentations were given in Viroqua and La Farge. A total of 59 women will take the current session to be held in April and May. Taped the Kid Care satellite program to be held in May for day care providers. Attended planning session at WCCU for the budget program I will be co-presenting for them. This will be held April 23, 2009. Reviewed 2008 budget for clerk's office and finance committee. Discovered overrun was from health insurance cost for newly hired county employee. Old figures were used from retiring employee so amounts were incorrect in 2008 budget.

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