

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2009

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

The public meeting notice/agenda was sent to the Vernon County Broadcaster on April 30, 2009, and County Clerk, Computer Department and Personnel Department on May 1, 2009.

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

The next monthly meeting will be June 8, 2009.

There were no visitors in attendance.

Cornell read the April office expenses. Beitlich moved, Easterday seconded to approve the office expenses of \$2494.75. Motion carried. McClelland moved, Beitlich seconded, to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$772.50. Motion carried.

Traastad reported on continuing plans for Chancellor Wilson's upcoming visit on June 25, 2009. So far the morning will include a visit to Judge Rosborough at the Courthouse to talk about Teen Court. Then we will hold the rest of the event at Vernon Vineyards. Letters of invitation will be coming.

Traastad passed out Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committee conference registration materials. The annual conference will be June 15 and 16 in La Crosse.

Traastad also reported that because of our state contract we may be part of the state employee furlough the governor is proposing. More information coming.

Rehbein reported on April activities: The scheduling of the dairy breakfast has been a challenge this year. At first it was going to be held on a farm in southwest Vernon County and that fell through. Then it was going to be held in Westby with 3 local ag businesses going together to host and that did not come together mainly because of the Emerald Ash Borer discovery and the time that will needed to be spent on that. Finally the Peters Family of rural Coon Valley volunteered to host the breakfast on Saturday June 6th. Eric Ostrem will be chairing the breakfast. Initial planning meetings were held in April. Considerable work was conducted in response to the Emerald Ash Borer find. Area ag agents met with the DNR and DATCP personnel to learn about EAB and the response needed. A big challenge will be firewood. No firewood will be allowed to move out of the county. Display boards were set up in local businesses along the river and also in the Westby and DeSoto Schools. Met with the Vernon County Cattlemen board to review scholarship applications. The youth receiving scholarships this year are Alysa Dach, Kyle Kruizenga, and Tyler Fortun. In cooperation with Nelson Agri-Center, hosted the Animal Clinic 4-H Super Saturday at the fair grounds. This was a team effort with Colleen and the 4-H program. Met numerous times with John Adams, who submitted an ADD grant to the DATCP. The grant is for setting up a project to

test different components that go into a pellet for the pellet burning stoves. He wants to use newspaper, ag residues and wood residues. In addition to running test batches, he will also need to have the pellets “burn” tested for BTUs and gas production. Conducted site tours to the Peninsular Ag Research Station and the Spooner research station to view the grape variety plots that were established last spring. The mileage for this professional development was paid for with UW-Extension Southern District Funds. Several grape growers in those areas of the state were also visited. At the request of a small business owner, attended the Town of Franklin Annual Meeting to help answer questions on their request for a license to sell wine at their business. Given the fact that the town of Franklin is a “dry” township by referendum, the township will need to conduct another referendum to see if the voters will say yes to the request before the board can go any further. Continue to work with the startup of the Badger State Winery Cooperative.

Pulvermacher reported on April activities: Colleen reported on the successful Super Day held in collaboration with Nelson Agri-Center. One hundred fifteen youth participated. Colleen let the committee know that she was cautioned at the state 4-H level to make use of Extension animal specialists in the future and to be leery of companies trying to sell their products. Colleen will continue to focus on quality educational experiences for our youth utilizing the local partnerships and resources as available. A Leader’s Retreat was held in April with 18 4-H leaders attending and learning together. Colleen held the retreat at the Firehouse in Viroqua. Colleen took one week of family and medical leave in April. Colleen reported on camp counselor training. We have 49 campers from Vernon County (for comparison, there are 15 campers from Richland County, 22 Crawford County) and 7 camp counselors. One Vernon County camp counselor could not follow through on his commitment to attend required training and Colleen explained that this would not be tolerated and that this youth could apply to be a camp counselor again in the future if he so chose. There are plenty of female camp chaperones and no male chaperones. This, obviously, is a problem that must be resolved and the educators from all 3 counties are working on this. Colleen attended the Spring Program Area conference in Wausau and taught a dance session at the evening sharefair. Colleen enjoyed the conference, which offered lots of practical advice for youth development educators. Colleen was pleased to receive an e-mail from the youth development educator at Penn State who indicated because of the training Colleen provided last fall at Ohio State their county 4-H program has implemented four Super Saturdays with great success! Katie Rhodes, summer assistant, will begin her work here on Wednesday, May 13th.

Lenzendorf reported on April activities: She finished her six-lesson nutrition education series in the LaFarge School, grades 1-4. Evaluations were given to the teachers of those grades to determine what went well, what could have gone better and ideas for next year. LaFarge School did agree to continue working with WNEP in FY10. On April 21 & 22, Sonya completed her final new nutrition educator training. There were three two-day trainings total. Next week she is attending the New UW Colleague Training in Madison on May 18 & 19. Much time has been spent in the last month working on plans and agreements for FY10. Last week, Sonya met with New Hope Church food pantry located by Red Mound. In late June we are planning on providing some education during their food pantry hours. Overall, just trying to meet agreements for FY09 and plan for FY10.

Traastad reported on April activities: in April the Powerful Tools for Caregiving class started. The class goal is to help family caregivers deal with the stress of caregiving. It will be a six-week course co-taught with Pat Peterson, Aging Unit. Six are registered.

In April started another round of Strong Women classes. Fifty-nine women are enrolled in the 3 new classes: 14 new Strong Women class, 20 in Super Strong and 25 in La Farge.

Held wrap up meeting with school representatives to evaluate Reality Daze financial event.

Home and Community Organization held the annual Spring Banquet. They hosted a guest speaker from Sauk County HCE.

Gave the presentation "When Your Income Drops" at a public workshop at Westby Co-Op Credit Union sponsored. Developed a display with informational handouts available to the public.

Helped promote and participated in the Spring Fling, a fundraiser at Vernon Vineyards for the Domestic Abuse Project. Funds were generated for a victim emergency fund.

Continue to work on the county comprehensive plan by attending county committee meeting and working with Housing Coalition.

Attended Dairy Breakfast planning meetings and work with several committees.

Conducted one financial counsel interview in April.

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