

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2009

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

The public meeting notice was sent to the Vernon County Broadcaster, County Clerk, Personnel and Computer departments for posting on October 29, 2009.

The next meeting date will be December 14, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

There were no visitors in attendance.

Beitlich moved, Larson seconded to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$622.78. motion carried.

McClelland moved, Easterday seconded to approve the office operations expenses of \$1536.95. Motion carried.

Rehbein reported on October activities: Compiled the carcass judging data from the fair for the annual carcass evaluation program held on October 7th. Over 200 meat animal exhibitors, parents and buyers attended the program. This is where the sale checks are handed out to the exhibitors. It was held one week later this year to allow more time for the buyers to pay their bill. Met with the dairy promotion committee to help plan the Dairy and Cooperative Gala event that was held on October 17th. Over 75 folks attended the event. Vernon Vineyards again conducted the wine and cheese tasting event prior to the meal. Assisted the state contact folks with the SARE program at hosting a tour at Vernon Vineyards to present on the change from tobacco to grapes. There were 10 agents from around the nation attending this tour. Conducted a farm visit at rural Westby to help site and plan for another vineyard. As part of the full office staff, participated in a state civil rights review of the Vernon County UW-Extension Office. The staff presented changes in the county's population and how that guides our programs. Participated in the annual Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension program area 3 day meeting in Wisconsin Dells. This is a time where various teams meet (like the fruit team) to plan for the 2010 programs and to receive updates and training in certain areas. The 2010 Mentor of the Year Award was received for work that was done in mentoring new agents in the tenure process. The month closed out with some vacation time taken.

Pulvermacher reported on October activities: Colleen reported that she is working with the 4-H Leader Parent Federation on review of the by-laws that govern the 4-H program. Like many committees, this board struggles with a healthy cycle of new voices and ideas. Colleen spoke about the Herb Kohl Excellence letter she wrote on behalf of a 4-H member. Colleen explained the very competitive nature of this scholarship and how grades alone do not trump scholarship applications. Rather, a well-rounded experience of academics, teamwork, community service, citizenship and people skills are what scholarship donors are looking for. Colleen attended a district meeting where she shared news from other counties and how they are coping with budget challenges (county

furlough days, increasing fees for 4-H, not printing newsletters, etc.). The annual banquet is coming up January 10th (24th is the snow date) 1 p.m. at the Retreat Sportsmen's Club. Following the lead from last year, the theme will be light-hearted and family friendly. Colleen complimented the group working on the banquet this year, the central area clubs, and particularly the youth involved. Colleen will be teaching *Putting Your Best Foot Forward* at the Fall State Youth Conference along with Chrissy Wendorf, who is interested in exploring career possibilities with Extension. In collaboration with Julie Larson, Dairy Committee Chair, Colleen submitted a grant application to receive \$3000 from the James Crowley Fund to have a dairy intern in Vernon County this summer. We anticipate notification by the end of the month if our application was accepted. Three cases were heard for Teen Court and one case is scheduled for November. Four people expressed interest in attending Teen Court volunteer training. Training was held in October and two attended the training and completed the background check successfully. The Vernon County Partnership Council had some money left over as their 10-year drug free grant ended. The Teen Court program requested two educational DVDs and did receive them with drug free funds. Colleen will be teaching volunteer management workshops through the winter, open to anyone who works with volunteers. The Vernon County Volunteer Coordinators group will financially support this. Colleen used some vacation and sick days to take care of issues on the home front. Hopefully now everyone will stay healthy!

Traastad reported on October activities: Conducted financial counsel sessions for two individuals applying for Workforce Connections car loans.

Attended the state UW-Extension Family Living Program Area Aging Team meeting in Stevens Point and faculty district meeting in Madison.

Spent several days completing documents for the Civil Rights Review of our county Extension programs. Dick Pederson, Ann Keim from Madison UW-Extension, and Lee Cunningham from Dane County, conducted the review. Agents will now have to write an action plan for future programs we will conduct in the county.

Helped the Vernon County Home and Community organization in hosting the district HCE meeting in Viroqua. About 70 women from eight counties attended the business meeting and several workshops. June Pedretti was guest keynote speaker.

Coordinated the Reality Daze all-school planning meeting held at WTC campus, Viroqua. Plans are now started for the March 2010 county-wide financial event for high school students.

In October, took a couple vacation days and one furlough day.

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