

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes – December 14, 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 was sent for posting to the Vernon County Broadcaster, County Clerk, Personnel and Computer departments on December 7, 2009.

The next meeting dates will be January 8, 2010, and February 8, 2010, both at 9:30 a.m.

There were no visitors in attendance.

Beitlich moved, Larsen seconded, to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$637.11. Motion carried.

Larsen moved, Easterday seconded, to approve the office operations expenses of \$2870.40. Motion carried.

Sonya Lenzendorf reported on November activities: Sonya has been at a couple WIC clinics talking about healthy beverages for children. The emphasis is really on not drinking too much juice and limiting juice to about once a day. While drinking milk 2-3 times and water in between meals. Many children don't think they like the taste of water, but by introducing it early water becomes a great option for kids. This month at the food pantry they received lots of dried milk. I had handouts that gave recipes for dried milk and also talked about using the dried milk when you cook instead of using your fresh milk. This way the dried milk will last longer and can be kept as a backup if it is needed. Two students from UW-Madison contacted Sonya for information specific to Vernon County regarding low-income, obesity and child care centers. The project they were working on was a Farm to Daycare type program. After this report was complete another meeting was set up to talk about the possibility of the program actually being rolled out in Vernon County. There are many details to figure out but WNEP's participation will be limited due to the many stipulations that WNEP has. Sonya will continue to provide input and provide local information to the group as it proceeds ahead. Sonya will start visiting LaFarge Elementary School in January. The grades will be 1st – 4th and each class will receive six nutrition education sessions.

Rehbein reported on November activities: Hosted and participated in a regional Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) planning meeting with representatives from area UW-Extension Offices, local and regional DNR Forestry offices and state level WDATCP folks. The purpose of the meeting is to take state level recommendations and actions and apply them to more of a local response. Priorities were also discussed. Met with the Wisconsin Grape Growers Association Board of Directors to finalize plans for their state conference coming up in January. The WGGA holds their annual meeting and conference in conjunction with the Wisconsin Fresh Fruit and Veggie Conference at Wisconsin Dells. Was a host site for a state wide webinar on the corn harvesting and the mold problems that were being found in the 2009 crop. Five area ag lenders and 2 area feed dealers attended the 2 hour webinar. Met with the Vernon County Fair Meat Animal Sale Committee to review the 2009 sale. Auctioneer Paul Conrad attended to inquire about the auctioneer rotation. Auctioneers will be invited to attend the January annual meeting. Attended the regional pest management update meeting in Sparta. This is where industry and ag agents

hear about the 2009 research plot results of the University. Met with a family who wishes to start a new winery near Ferryville. Topics discussed were: building plans, local/state/federal permits, grape growing versus grape buying and equipment. Several days of vacation were used and 2 flexible days of furlough were taken along with 1 fixed day.

Pulvermacher reported on November activities: Teen Court had two cases in November and is scheduled to have two for the December session. Colleen has been asked to join the WI delegation traveling to Washington, D.C. in the spring. Also traveling with this group will be the UW-Extension Dean, Associate Dean and members of the statewide Ag & Ext Education Committee, along with other Extension educators. This trip will be fully paid for by Colleen's professional association. Colleen has been working with 4-H educators from Richland and Crawford County who are planning a separate middle school camp at Mirror Lake this year while younger youth are at Upham Woods camp. Colleen enjoyed learning about Premier Meats on the tour offered in November. Colleen attended the November district meeting where she learned about Ag in the classroom activities and resources. Colleen taught Putting Your Best Foot Forward at the Fall Youth Conference, along with Chrissy Wendorf, co-presenter. Colleen organized the Vernon County Volunteer Coordinator's farewell luncheon for Judy Mathison, of the Historical Society. Colleen is organizing a series of news releases on behalf of the Eat Well Be Active State work team that she serves on. This is a combined effort of Family Living and youth development educators. Colleen attended the Department of Youth Development meeting in Stevens Point and gave a report on the actions of the Research and Publications committee, of which she is chair. Colleen was notified that Vernon County has received a \$3000 James Crowley Grant to support a dairy intern to work with our 4-H youth this summer. Colleen extended thanks to Julie Larson who did a great deal of background work to identify projects the intern will work with. Colleen will work through administrative issues and proper posting of the position. Colleen will be applying for tenure by the January submission date. The tenure process was explained. Colleen is looking forward to a few days off during the holidays and reminded Ag and Ext members of the upcoming recognition banquet on January 10th.

Traastad reported on November activities: Attended the Family Living Program area state conference which hasn't been held for three years. The 2-day conference featured topics on programs for diverse audiences in hard economic times. Attended the evening public hearing on the County Comprehensive Plan. Coordinated the first all-school Reality Daze Planning meeting. The eight schools participating this year are Westby, Viroqua, Kickapoo, La Farge, Hillsboro, North Crawford, Cashton, and Cornerstone Christian Academy. The event will be March 17, 2010. Met with the Vernon County Housing Coalition to report the Comprehensive Plan Parts I and II were completed and to plan future projects. Attended a program for caregivers called "Lighten Up for the Holidays" co-sponsored by the Aging Unit and Vernon Manor. Co-taught a program for parents at Prairie View Elementary School which is part of the De Soto school system. Attended Domestic Abuse Coalition meeting and "Aging In Our Communities" state team meeting for state Family Living Programs. Promoting and coordinating the next series of the Strong Women strength training classes. We hope to have two classes in Viroqua and one in La Farge. Took the required state furlough day on November 27, 2009.

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