

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2010

Chairman Herb Cornell called the meeting to order at 9:30. 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, and Computer Departments on December 22, 2009.

The next meeting date is February 8, 2010.

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

McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to approve the December 2009 office operations expenses of \$1256.34 and December 2009 Teen Court expenses of \$16.66. Motion carried.

Beitlich moved and Easterday seconded the January 2010 office expenses received to date of \$927.80 and Teen Court January 2010 expense of \$600. Motion carried.

Beitlich moved, Larson seconded, to support Colleen's tenure application and that there is a long-term need for the 4-H Youth Development position in Vernon County, and there is also long-term funding (40%) support for the 4-H Youth Development position. Motion carried.

Pulvermacher reported on December activities: The majority of time was spent on preparing her tenure document, which consists of a portfolio showcasing her educational efforts and impact over the past five years. This was a very time intensive task. Colleen reviewed the tenure process with the committee and will keep them informed of the status of achieving tenure. Officer training was held in December with 37 in attendance, which is excellent. Teen Court had two cases in December. Colleen reported that all of her year end reports are now completed. Colleen reminded Ag and Ext committee members that they are all welcome at the 4-H recognition banquet on Sunday afternoon at Retreat.

Sonya Lenzendorf reported that she will be starting to go into La Farge Elementary to provide nutrition education to grades 1-4. For the next three months the topic at WIC clinics are beans. Sonya will provide materials on how to use beans in your cooking and also give some recipes using beans. A quarterly newsletter was given to all present. The newsletter is developed by the WNEP Coordinators in the Southern District. They are distributed at food pantries, WIC, Head Start and are posted on the website.

Rehbein reported on December activities: Conducted a national corn grower yield check for a county cash grain operator. The yield was just over 200 bushels per acre. As a side note, this yield check also helps the grower calibrate the on-board yield monitor. Sent out a newsletter to the updated dairy producer list. The list is now below 500. The mailing included information on the nutrient management plan requirement, feeding moldy corn and the upcoming regional dairy management meeting. Cooperated with La Crosse and Monroe County UW-Extension Offices in conducting that regional dairy management meeting at Bangor. The La Crosse County Ag Agent took the lead role with the event. Just over 30 producers and ag business folks attended the session. This was

definitely less than expected. Conducted the annual “Growing Season Wrap-Up” meeting with area grape growers on Saturday night December 12th. Even with a cold and not so good growing season, everyone was able to sell the grapes that they wanted and were already showing excitement for next year. Grower educational needs were also discussed. Topping the list was disease management and more specifically using weather stations to management disease and spray programs. Attended the annual meeting of the Vernon County Agriculture Society earlier that day also. The fair had a very good year and continues to work on funding for the new commercial building. Participated in the Emerging Ag Market Team meeting (at state expense) to evaluate the direction of the team. This team membership and some funding were used early in the tobacco-to-grape project to get started. The team has seen a decline in projects and team member interest.

Attended the regional Tri-State Beef Days as Prairie du Chien. A key presentation was a producer panel on how they use the new RFID tag system to produce beef animals for the “source verified” market. We also have a new beef specialist for UW-Extension. She will be included in spring Vernon County Cattlemen programs. Several days of vacation were also taken along with two more flex furlough days.

Traastad reported on December 2009 activities: Hosted a visit for the new Aging Issues specialist Clifton Barber from UW-Madison. Gave him information on my program planning to meet the needs of Vernon County citizens and my aging specific programs.

Conducted financial counseling for three individuals in December to meet their needs in applying for a car loan through Work-Force Connections.

Taught two informational sessions for starting the winter Strong Women weight training class and taught the class several times for instructor Jane Schmidt who had surgery.

Attended district faculty meeting in Madison where I presented information on housing and family needs which were identified in our county’s comprehensive plan.

Attended Fair Board’s annual meeting and appreciation dinner at Old Towne Inn.

Thank Tim for attending a Southern District UW-Extension department head training in my place.

Took two of the required flexible furlough days as a state contracted employee and several vacation days around the holidays.

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