

## **Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee** *Monthly Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2010*

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 amended public meeting notice was sent to the Vernon County Broadcaster, County Clerk and Computer Department on August 3, 2010.

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

The next meeting date is September 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Easterday moved, Larson seconded to approve the July Teen Court expenses of \$643.77. Motion carried.

Larson moved, Beitlich seconded, to approve the July office operations expenses of \$2,562.99 and special account expenses of \$109.65. Motion carried.

Traastad handed out information on the Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committee district meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Due to the County Board meeting on that same day, no members can attend.

Traastad presented the annual 133 state contract renewal for UW-Extension faculty. Larson moved, McClelland seconded, to approve the annual UW-Extension agents 133 contracts for the state fiscal year of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Motion carried.

### ***Colleen Pulvermacher reported on June and July activities:***

The State Fair dairy entry process went well this year thanks to help from Tim & Abbie. We will have youth at State Fair in dairy, beef, clothing revue, musical and drama. Teen Court had four cases in June, three in July and two for August. Clothing Revue went very well and was organized by Laura, our summer intern. The new southern district liaison for 4-H youth development spent a day in Vernon County getting to know our programs, traditions and plans for the future. She was duly impressed with the number of youth we serve through a variety of creative programs! As Frank predicted, a big storm did come, and yes – during 4-H camp! The first night we had a tornado warning and the second night a tornado watch and about 3” of rain! I was responsible for the 25 people at outpost (tent) camping at Mirror Lake State Park. Everyone survived the challenges Mother Nature threw at us and we all agreed it was really fun overall. Eight delegates attended State Youth Conference and overall reports from that were very positive. I am on the planning committee for the southern district leadership team fall youth conference. In addition to helping plan the conference, I will also be teaching Putting Your Best Foot Forward. I took the last of my 8 days of unpaid furlough required for this fiscal year.

Eleven youth participated in the high ropes event at UW-L. This was a kick off event to re-establish youth ambassadors. The participants were 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders, just the age we hope to get involved. Eighteen 4-H leaders attended the Leader Retreat. Featured topics included fair entries, revising the project activity guide, involving parents and fair food stand issues. I received a wonderful letter from the National 4-H Extension Agents Association that two of our programs, Leader Retreats and Putting Your Best Foot Forward, have both received regional awards for excellence in youth development and Leader Retreats also received a national award for excellence in program development. Due to my involvement with volunteer development at the county level and my enthusiasm for this work I was asked to join a statewide team from all program areas (family living, youth development, agriculture, etc.) to develop volunteer development resources for all of UW-Extension. I attended the planning meeting in Stevens Point with all costs being covered by the Dean's office. I attended the Vernon County Truancy Council meeting which is charged with reviewing the county wide policy on truancy every three years. Truancy cases are sometimes referred to Teen Court and I presented the Teen Court statistics related to truancy. In the past 5 years we have heard 17 truancy cases and have had 70% compliance with sanctions. The older youth are the more

difficult it is so make a positive impact on a truancy situation, since at the age of 18 youth are no longer required by law to attend school. I made a plea to the school administrators to refer youth to Teen Court for truancy early on, after just a few missed absences, where hopefully we can help the youth turn their behavior around before the problem gets out of hand. The 4-H program has had several successful educational programs this year including a visit to the Genoa Fish Hatchery, a sewing day, rocket building, and the pie social featuring youth to spoke about award trips. The commercial building at the fairgrounds has been a wonderful facility for 4-H programs and is greatly appreciated. The canoe trip scheduled for late July was rescheduled to next week due to high water, which may still be an issue next week with the rain that is forecast at this point. Safety is always the first priority in planning our programs. The Farm Tech Days trip was canceled due to low enrollment. A photography class was held in late July to assist you in preparing photos for submission at the county fair. Eight youth attended. Intern management is absorbing considerable time. Both Abbie and Laura will complete their hours in the next two weeks. A Vernon County 4-H facebook page has been established and will be presented to this committee at a future meeting. I am concerned about getting the 4-H food stand rotting back walls replaced prior to installation of a meter. I am hoping to offer the work to the Viroqua Building Construction class. (Kevin Larson, representing the fair board, indicated that the installation of the 4-H meter could be delayed to accommodate the building construction class schedule.) I appreciate the extension to get this work accomplished.

***Tim Rehbein reported on July activities:*** Conducted two farm visits with the UW-Extension Ag Engineer. Both farms wish to expand their dairy operations. Developed and staffed a booth at Farm Technology Days in Pierce County on growing hops and barley for the Wisconsin craft beer industry. Helping with the booth was Carl Duley, the Buffalo County Ag Agent. The two days of the show were very busy talking with interested people. The third day of the show was a wash out. Expenses for being at the show were paid by the state UW-Extension ANRE Office. Assisted the Holstein Breeders with their annual twilight meeting. This year it was a daylight meeting held on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Over 250 people attended the event. Normally during the last week in July a group of grape growers attends the annual viticulture field day at Michigan State University. This year due to a programming conflict, the date of the field day was changed by one day which meant that our group could not go. At state expense, and as a member of the mentor team, met with the mentor team and district director and other program directors for the official 3 year review of the Sauk County Ag Agent. This is the half way point for her to receive tenure. She passed this stage with flying colors. A number of days of vacation were taken in July.

***Karen Traastad reported on June and July activities:*** Helped the Dairy Promotion Committee with the Dairy Princess contest and June Dairy Breakfast on the Gerald Schumacher farm.

In June helped one individual with budget development for a work force connection car loan.

Attended one county board Comprehensive Planning committee meeting in June. Committee is making suggested changes to bring back to the full board.

Worked on the department 2011 budget development as well as expense reports and committee agenda and minutes. Was in communication with the state on annual contract renewal.

Tested canner lids and phone questions on food preservation concerns.

Attended by teleconference the Aging in Our Communities State Team for Family Living Programs.

Started plans for the fall Strong Women classes set for Viroqua and La Farge. Jane Schmidt will again teach the classes.

Traastad presented a 6-month report on current year's department budget (2010) and information to consider in development of the 2011 budget for the UW-Extension department. Will bring cost information on replacing office equipment to the September committee meeting. Also looking for ideas to implement a zero percent increase.

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