

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2009

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

The public meeting notice/agenda was sent to the Vernon County Broadcaster on June 1, 2009, and the County Clerk, Personnel and Computer departments on June 2, 2009.

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

The next monthly meeting will be July 6, 2009 (changed to July 13, 2009).

There were no visitors in attendance.

Cornell read the May office expenses. Larson moved, McClelland seconded, to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$600. Motion carried. McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to approve the office expenses of \$1258.91. Motion carried

Traastad handed out the morning schedule for Chancellor Wilson's visit to Vernon County on June 25, 2009. Lee Nerison, Dan Kapanke, Tom Spenner, and local press are invited as well as ag committee members to join us at any time. Traastad will post the event stating no business will be conducted. Program participants such as Judge Rosborough and Jonel Kiesau will be invited to participate to help staff showcase Vernon County UW-Extension's program.

Department will participate in the county "garage sale" held by departments at Erlandson building and Courthouse facility.

It looks like UW-Extension faculty will be part of the proposed state employee furloughs. No details given to us yet.

Larson moved, Easterday seconded to accept the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program financial agreement for the 2009/2010 federal fiscal year. The agreement summarizes the value of space and faculty in-kind match to the federal monies supported program. Motion carried.

Rehbein reported on May activities: Continued work with planning for the dairy breakfast that will be held on Saturday, June 6 at Peter's Farm of rural Coon Valley. Conducted a distance education program for 12 folks on the Emerald Ash Borer outbreak found in western Vernon County. The program taught participants how to diagnose the insect and how to manage ash wood so that it does not spread as fast. Wrote 3 letters of support for ADD projects that will work with growing hops and for making wood burning pellets out of ingredients other than sawdust. Participated in a state mandated meeting between the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, the UW Center for Cooperatives and the board of the newly formed Badger State Winery Cooperative. The meeting was held to evaluate the progress of the cooperative. They did receive a "thumbs up" from the meeting. Assisted with the sheep and hog project weigh in and identification at the fair grounds. Met with the Wisconsin Grape Growers Association board of directors to plan summer and fall activities. A summer field day will be planned and a bus trip to MSU's Viticulture Field day will be planned. Hosted the southern district ag agents for the spring district meeting at a location just outside of Mt. Tabor. Farm Technology Days, Farm Safety and agent programming were covered. Several days of vacation were taken in May. Conducted numerous farm visits dealing with dairy farm expansion, beef herd handling facilities, pasture management, vineyard freeze damage and poor alfalfa fields.

Lenzendorf reported on May activities: I completed the two-day new colleague orientation in Madison on May 18 & 19. The training gave me a good background of UW-Extension and had an opportunity to find out about resources available to me that I was not aware of. I completed my budget and agency agreements for fiscal year 2010, which starts on October 2009. I will have all the same agreements as this year but will add working with New Hope Food Pantry. Upcoming this month I will be working with the Department on Aging to offer nutrition education to seniors that will receive senior farmer's market vouchers. This is a new program to the county this year. There will be four to five distribution sites around the county. I will also be providing nutrition education at the New Hope food pantry on June 25th. I plan to use much of the summer to plan and prepare for next year, since it is a slower time of year for the WNEP program.

Rhodes reported on May activities: Have been attending 4-H club meetings to promote programming, as well as youth ambassadors meeting and June Dairy Breakfast. Working with State fair delegates to put on Clothing review. Programming coming up in July includes an international foods potluck, photography day, teen adventure day, and day camps. We are taking a group of youth to Farm Technology days in July. Am looking forward to camp as well.

Pulvermacher reported on May activities: Colleen caught the spring bug going around and missed several days of work. Colleen was out of the office to attend a Joint Council of Extension Professionals meeting in Stevens Point and to attend a Project Lead the Way meeting in Dodgeville. These meeting expenses (meals and mileage) were not billed to the county. Colleen worked with Karen on the dairy princess program. The young girls involved in the dairy princess program, along with a male youth, have been asked to join Katie and Colleen as they present a workshop next week at state youth conference on making a positive first impression. The Vernon County Partnership Council (VCPC) is undergoing changes with the loss of a CouleeCAP staff person due to the end of a grant. This means the VCPC is restructuring. Our focus will remain the same, which is alcohol and drug prevention and other healthy living and prevention issues. Teen Court will hear six cases tonight – four disorderly conduct, one marijuana and one underage drinking. Colleen is assisting with the planning for the UW-Colleges and Extension Chancellor, David Wilson. Colleen spent considerable time searching out male chaperones for summer camp. This issue of limited male chaperones is also a problem for state fair bound dairy youth. Colleen attended her district meeting, which was held in Richland Center, so she walked to the meeting. Colleen extended an invitation to all Ag and Extension committee members to join the 4-H families for our annual picnic, date to be determined.

Traastad reported on May activities: Co-taught with Pat Peterson, the 5th Powerful Tools class for family caregivers. Finished the class in May with six attending the 6-week class.

Working with Vernon County Housing Coalition to identify housing issues to be included in the county's comprehensive plan. Contacted UW-Extension Applied Population Lab for tables showing 2000 Census data on housing in Vernon County. This data will be shown in table format and used in future report.

Held the last Kid Care satellite program for day care providers. The class was "Sparkling Kid's Curiosity".

Attended district faculty meeting in Madison, Dairy Breakfast planning meetings, and regional Child Care Resource and Referral board meeting in Lancaster.

Facilitate discussion for Westby Library group on the lack of medical insurance coverage for Americans. The discussion followed a viewing of a public television documentary.