

**Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee**  
*Monthly Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2010*

Tim Rehbein called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Present were Cornell, Beitlich, McClelland, Larson, Easterday, Rehbein, Pulvermacher and Traastad (joined after teaching a Strong Women class.)

The public meeting notice was first sent for posting on April 28, 2010, and amended on May 3, 2010, to the Vernon County Broadcaster. It was also emailed and faxed to the Computer and County Clerk's office on May 3, 2010.

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

McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to approve the additional minutes of Rehbein's report. Motion carried.

The next meeting date is June 14, 2010.

No visitors were in attendance.

Rehbein led election of committee officers.

McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to nominate and cast a unanimous ballot for Herb Cornell as chairman of the committee. Motion carried.

Larson moved, Easterday seconded, to nominate and cast a unanimous ballot for Will Beitlich as vice-chairman and John McClelland as secretary of the committee. Motion carried.

Easterday moved, Larson seconded, to approve the April Teen Court expenses of \$626.45. Motion carried.

McClelland moved, Easterday seconded, the April office expenses of \$1204.71 and Grape Grant expenses of \$1026.12. Motion carried.

***Pulvermacher reported on April activities:*** Summer camp plans are taking shape. There are 106 people (youth, counselors and chaperones) to transport to camp. Colleen shared the bid she received from First Student bussing. Weston School District is also bidding and promises to beat any other bid. Colleen expects to receive Weston's bid later today. With all arrangements made for summer camp, Colleen received a call to accept late registration and when she responded that registration was closed, a question about a waiting list came up. Colleen responded that there isn't a waiting list and that they can watch for camp information early in 2011 for the following summer. Colleen is pleased with the number of chaperones, and particularly male chaperones that have volunteered their time. Colleen has some concerns about camp counselors - 12 applied for this opportunity and only four have followed through. Colleen is also concerned about the camp counselors' lack of experience and limited training. Colleen was not able to attend camp counselor training due to a prior family commitment and expressed appreciation to the Richland and Crawford agents who presented the training. This year Colleen will be leading the outpost experience at Mirror Lake for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Teen Court will be delayed for a month given the recent tragic death of Viroqua teens who were well known both to the youth appearing in Teen Court and to the jurors.

Colleen has been working with Hillsboro 8<sup>th</sup> graders on Career Educator, Putting Your Best Foot Forward and also has been asked to help with a program to motivate the 9<sup>th</sup> graders, some of whom are already credit deficient. In conjunction with the guidance counselor, Colleen is working to develop a motivational program with a low ropes course, some motivational speaking, teambuilding and confidence building activities.

The State Fair Dairy Committee has an excellent chair, whose efforts have been challenging as several parents are not using the committee as it is intended, sending e-mails and making phone calls to State Fair, without the knowledge or input of Extension staff or the committee chair. Colleen spoke with State Fair staff and clarified some issues and concerns. Colleen reassured State Fair staff that the point of contact for State Fair Dairy issues is the committee chair, or Extension staff.

Two interns will be starting this month. Laura Lauderdale is the 4-H summer intern and her position is funded by the 4-H leaders federation. Laura is from Walworth County and is currently a student at UW-LaCrosse as an English Education major. Laura will be working with general 4-H programming, assisting with camp, tractor safety, clothing revue, Cloverbud Camp, etc. Abbie Holig is our Crowley Dairy Intern, funded by the Crowley Grant (which increased from \$3,000 to \$3,500). Abbie is a student at UW-Madison and is from the Wonewoc area. Abbie's sole focus will be on dairy and she will be busy visiting dairy project members, working with dairy judging, area animal science days and dairy princess contest. Colleen is delighted to have these two very capable college interns join the Extension Staff and will oversee their activities this summer.

Utilizing Everyone Ready curriculum, Colleen prepared and taught a seminar for volunteer managers called *Avoiding the Pitfalls and Obstacles of Volunteer Management* during National Volunteer Week. There were 25 participants from five counties and all the feedback she received was positive. Official evaluation results will be shared at the June meeting.

Colleen had a request for Stojanovich funding for a youth wanting to go to 4-H camp but could not afford to pay for it. Colleen developed a form for parents to explain the need and a letter outlining expectations upon receipt of funding.

4-H Leader Retreats has been accepted as a poster session at the National Association of 4-H Youth Development Educators national conference to be held in October of this year in Phoenix. Colleen has already procured partial funding for this conference and has two other grants she plans to apply for so the cost of this conference doesn't require county funding.

Colleen traveled to Washington D.C. recently to attend the Public Issues in Leadership Development (PILD) Conference. The purpose of this conference is to bring WACEC members, Extension administrators and educators together to tell our Extension Story, and solicit continued funding through capitol hill visits and presentations. Colleen learned a great deal about federal funding and enjoyed the professional development opportunity to meet other educators and county board members from across the country. The WI Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals paid the entire cost of the PILD conference. (WAE4-HYDP).

***Rehbein reported on April activities:*** Continue to monitor the programs for Emerald Ash Borer with folks from the DNR and WDATCP. Most of the work is regulatory to try to keep infested ash wood products from leaving the county. Attended the annual Wisconsin JCEP conference in Green Bay. The conference theme was around how technology is being used to educate. The annual beef weigh-in and identification was held on April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The scale was certified prior to the weigh-in to see how

accurate it was. At 1500 pounds, the scale was weighing 22 pounds light. The scale will not be moved prior to the fair so the certification will be good for fair time. Met with the cattlemen board to select the two \$250 scholarship winners for the year. They also set the fitting and showing event for June 19<sup>th</sup> and the steak fry for July 22. A retiring dairy farmer from Minnesota drove to the office for an appointment to talk about getting into grape production. He brought along his daughter and son-in-law. The daughter and husband wish to convert some of the dairy farm into grape production. After 3 hours of meeting in the office, a visit was made with them to the Haakenson vineyard. Met with Brian Nelson at Crop Production Services in Centerville, WI, to go over the latest fungicide products for grape production. Several vineyard visits were conducted on the way to Centerville. Met with the county USDA emergency response team for the quarterly meeting. The committee is chaired by the FSA director Kathy Lewison. Met with the dairy breakfast planning committee several times in April. This year's host is Gerald Schumacher of West Prairie. Attended the Bluff to Bluff Wine, Cheese and Beer tasting function in LaCrosse to give a presentation on the growth of the wine industry in the area. However, due to the timing of the educational event, the presentation was not given. This was their first year in trying to add educational programs with the event. As part of a state law requirement, a 5 year post tenure review document was drafted and sent to the department for review. The interview with the review committee was conducted via telephone. Results of the review will be sent by letter by the committee at a later date. Met with the Badger State Winery Cooperative for their twice a year state mandated meeting with the Department of Revenue staff. So far the cooperative is making money but is still working through the "paper trail" problems. Attended a demographic training in Madison at the request of the southern district director. The training explained and demonstrated the changes taking place with the 10 year census process and other census information developed on a 1,3 and 5 year basis. The 10 year census "long form" has been eliminated.

Rehbein also reported on professional development opportunities that may be available later this summer and late fall. One is the National Extension Viticulture Conference that is normally held in spring. This year it is tentatively being scheduled for late August or early September in California. Rehbein has secured funding from the Wisconsin Grape Growers Association for Rebecca Harbut the new fruit specialist to attend. She has asked that Rehbein also attend to help her integrate with the other national viticulture specialists. Rehbein does have some grant funding still available and may attend if there is no conflict with the county fair. The host of the conference is also seeking USDA funding to help pay for travel. The second opportunity is for hop production. Rehbein has secured at least \$1000 of funding so far to travel to Europe to meet with hop equipment companies. There are no hop equipment companies in the US. Rehbein is trying to find very small scale harvesting equipment for the small hop grower in Wisconsin. He has also applied for funding from the SARE grant program to help pay for travel costs. A final decision will not be made on pursuing this trip until all funding sources are known.

***Traastad reported on April activities:*** attended the Vernon County Housing coalition meeting where the group finalized the newly developed mission statement and started work on a new Housing Resource Guide for low income and special needs housing.

Completed the Powerful Tools for Caregivers 6-week course. Six women attended the class on stress reduction/resource sharing for those in the caregiving role.

The Strong Women class continued and I started teaching most of the 5:15 p.m. classes in April.

Attended the Fairest of the Fair committee meeting, the Volunteer Workshop for managers Colleen taught, and County Department Head meeting.

Gave a parenting presentation on discipline for young children at the Stoddard Elementary School. Co-taught the same presentation last January at the De Soto Prairie View Elementary School.

Helped coordinate and attended the Home and Community Organization annual spring banquet held in Westby. Alice Olson, from the Vernon County Aging and Disability Resource Center, was the guest speaker.

Helped with and attended the Vernon County Domestic Abuse fundraiser at Vernon Vineyards the last Saturday in April. We raised about \$3,000 for the emergency fund for women in domestic abuse situations. I am currently a member of the county task force.

Attended the second April Dairy Breakfast meeting on the Schumacher farm.

Traastad discussed the upcoming WACEC (Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees) state and district conferences this summer. The state-wide conference in June 22-23, 2010, in Millwaukee and district conference is August 24, 2010 in La Fayette County.

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