

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2010

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 to the Vernon County Broadcaster on November 1, 2010 and to the County Clerk and Computer Department for posting on November 2, 2010.

Beitlich moved, Larson seconded, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

The next meeting date is December 13, 2010.

No visitors in attendance.

McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to approve the October Teen Court expenses of \$687.21. Motion carried.

Traastad discussed the computer printer problems and the funds received for deposits to the department's budget. Easterday moved, Larson seconded, to approve the October office expenses of \$4406.25.

Pulvermacher reported on October activities: Colleen attended the Springville Superstars 4-H club meeting and was very impressed with their well-organized meeting. For the educational portion of their meeting, Colleen presented an overview of *Putting Your Best Foot Forward*, a component of Colleen's Career Development program. Colleen attended the all-faculty conference in Madison. Colleen has been contacted by Human Services who is working with the Viroqua School District to consider utilizing Teen Court as a mechanism for dealing with bullying incidents. Colleen invited Viroqua School District and Human Services representatives to the December Teen Court Advisory Board meeting to explore possibilities to meet this need. Colleen attended the National Association of Extension 4-H Agent's Conference in Phoenix, AZ the last week of October. Colleen presented a session on *Leader Retreats – More Than Just Another Meeting*, which was very well received. Awards were received at the North Central Regional level for *Putting Your Best Foot Forward* and *Leader Retreats* and a National Award for Excellence in 4-H Club Support through *Leader Retreats*. Colleen was very excited to learn that the National Award came with a \$500 stipend, which she plans to use for future educational conferences. Colleen was encouraged to submit a proposal to teach at the National Extension Conference on Volunteerism in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho this spring. The teaching proposal for this has been submitted and Colleen will keep the committee informed of the status. The majority of Colleen's time has been spent on preparing her portfolio for tenure review, a University requirement of continuing her contract beyond August 31, 2011. The portfolio has been completed, compiled and sent off earlier this week. Colleen expressed sincere thanks to Cindy and Brenda who were instrumental in providing extra secretarial support and to Karen, Tim and Sonya for moral support and writing letters of recommendation. The new printer was a plus, too, as the documents requiring color printing looked very professional. Colleen will attend the Standards, Rank and Promotion Committee on November 23rd and know the status of her portfolio on that day.

Lenzendorf reported on October activities: Sonya has been in 9 classrooms since the beginning of October. All have been Kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms. Nutrition education is taught for thirty minutes in each room six times. In the last month, Sonya has been at two food pantries. It was the first time WNEP provided nutrition education at the Bethel Butikk, it went well. The food sample used was rice pudding which used rice and dried milk from the food pantry. Squash has also been a food that some food pantries have received and asked for recipes and handouts about how to prepare it. In October, Sonya attended the All Colleagues Conference in Madison along with the other Extension Agents.

Rehbein reported on October activities: Finalized the 2010 Meat Animal Sale carcass data sheet for the carcass evaluation night held on October 6. Over 200 parents, exhibitors and buyers attended the event. A brief presentation is given about how the carcasses are judged and the sale checks are distributed. The Wisconsin Towns Association held its annual convention in La Crosse and the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin hosted a farm tour for the town folks. Approximately 60 people came out to Norse Star Jerseys which is owned and operated by the Mike and Merna Fremstad Family. A history of Vernon County Agriculture was presented. Presented the story of “Tobacco To Grapes” to the Wisconsin Vintners Association of Milwaukee on October 13th. Travel was funded by the Wisconsin Grape Growers Association. Over 75 home wine makers were in attendance. The following weekend, one of them drove to Vernon County to purchase some late harvest grapes that were still hanging on the vine. At state expense, attended the all faculty and staff state wide UW Extension meeting in Madison. This meeting is held every 5 years for folks in Extension to meet, schedule programs and attend professional development workshops. Assisted the Dairy Promotion Committee in hosting the annual Dairy and Cooperative Gala event at the Firehouse Restaurant on Friday night October 22. Prior to the main function, Vernon Vineyards conducts a wine and cheese social with the Vernon County Cooperative Association paying for the event. The dairy promotion committee gave the Restaurant of the Year Award to the Blue Goose Pizza and Ice Cream and the Friends of the Dairy Industry Award to Julie and Kevin Larson. Over 100 folks attended. A report on the 2010 grape year and winery progress was given by Loren Cade. Participated in a second ag plastic recycling meeting at CROPP. One of the companies that was going to play a role in the project has gone bankrupt. The group is looking at other options to utilize the farm plastic. Two days of flexible furlough were taken in October.

Traastad reported on October activities: Worked with the Adams County Family Living agent on upcoming state project on retirement financial planning aimed at family caregivers and their care receivers. Will co-teach this topic at a state training as well as in a local county workshop next March.

Worked with the Vernon County Housing Coalition at the October meeting on a resource directory and the future director of this group.

Sent a letter to all members of Vernon County Home & Community Organization offering educational programs to their membership.

Started the Powerful Tools for Caregivers class aimed at family caregivers to help them deal with their Caregiving role and stress. I will co-teach this class with the Unit on Aging director, Vernon Manor social worker and Bethel Home Parish Nurse director. It will be a 6-session program and end in December.

Attended the All-Faculty UW-Extension state conference in Madison. As part of the Aging in Our Communities State Family Living team, co-taught a workshop at the conference entitled “Creating Aging-Friendly Communities in Wisconsin”.

Conducted one financial counseling session for one individual to apply for a Work Force Connection car loan.

Took a flexible furlough day to meet the state’s forced leave policy.

Worked with the Aging in Our Communities state team to develop a video project for educational materials for employed caregivers and employees. The team received a grant from the Beckner Foundation for this research and development project.

Larson moved, Easterday seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.