

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2010

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

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

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

The next meeting date is January 17, 2011.

No visitors in attendance.

McClelland moved, Easterday seconded, to approve the November 2010 Teen Court expenses of \$1032.62. Motion carried.

Larson moved, Easterday seconded, to approve the November 2010 office expenses of \$2565.60. Motion carried.

Traastad reported on November activities: Attended a La Crosse County Home & Community program on “Protecting Your Retirement and other Financial Information for Caregivers” with the intention of replicating this in Vernon County. Attended the state Family Living, Aging In Our Communities, team meeting in Stevens Point. We are working on curriculum and presentations given throughout the state on the growing aging population. Organized and coordinated a focus group if employed caregivers for the beginning step of a state-wide research project. We asked questions on the special needs and challenges these caregivers have in their lives and roles they have as family caregivers. Maplewood Terrace donated the free use of their adult day care facility for this evening session. Seven caregivers attended and many issues were identified. Future educational curriculum will be developed as part of this project. Held the first planning session for Reality Daze. All schools were required to send representatives. Attended county department head meeting to learn about the new phones. Met with Jen Whitty and Dr. Gary Gilmore, UW-La Crosse to discuss the possibility of hosting a non-paid internship as part of a masters degree requirement. I’m still thinking about this. Working on setting up the winter Strong Women classes to start after January 1, 2011. Took the required furlough day as well as one of the required flexible furlough days during November.

Rehbein reported on November activities: Met with the meat animal sale committee to review the 2010 auction. Sale was very good considering the general economy. Participated in an Emerald Ash Borer team conference call with DNR and WDATCP folks. Now that the public should have a main awareness of the infestation, the team discussed plans for the 2011 work year. Attended the area UW-Extension pest management update meeting in Sparta. Research plot results for the 2010 crop year in pest management are covered. Topics included weed management, herbicide changes, insects control with GMO and diseases. Initiated work on the 4-H food stand project. The committee is looking into removing the two old stands and building a new one after the 2011 fair is over. A letter of recommendation was written for Colleen’s portfolio that she has submitted to her department to request tenure with the University System. A letter of support was written for Professor Steve Jordan a post doctorate professor in plant pathology at UW-Madison. The grant would cover disease projects in vineyards. Salary commitment was extended to two projects: 1) a specialty crop project for Rebecca Harbut the new UW-Extension Fruit Specialist for work on researching what trellis system is best for certain grape varieties and what crop load. 2) a grant received by the Wisconsin Grape Growers Association for a one year project to hire a marketing consultant to work at getting new grape growers

connected to Wisconsin wineries, especially those wineries that currently do not use Wisconsin grapes. One mandatory and 2 flex furlough days were taken along with several days of vacation.

Pulvermacher reported on November activities: Colleen's portfolio was reviewed by the University Department of Youth Development Standards, Rank and Promotion Committee in late November and failed to pass by one vote. It is hoped that the suggested changes in the document will ensure passage at the next level, which consists of representatives from all program areas. Colleen is working hard to make suggested changes and will be resubmitting in early January. Colleen showed a jar of dry cookie mix which is sold by one of the 4-H clubs as their only fundraiser. This year this particular 4-H club generated \$1,200 profit by selling these pre-ordered jars. With that money, each 4-H member is given \$20 to use at the county fair. Colleen was an advisor to the State Youth Leadership conference held the opening day of deer hunting. Two hundred and eighteen youth attended this event, held at Chula Vista. Colleen will help negotiate the contract for this event next year. Chula Vista mentioned an anticipated increase of 20% in cost. Recent communication from Chula Vista indicated they would raise their expenses just \$200, which Colleen feels is workable. Colleen, along with 4-H agents from Richland, Crawford and Grant County, are planning an older youth leadership regional retreat to be held at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Registrations are due Wednesday and, at this point; only one registration has been received. Colleen and the other agents will meet by phone conference to discuss options and consider rescheduling. Colleen attended the district meeting (Richland County agent drove) where she taught the career development materials she has been using in the Hillsboro School district. Colleen attended a meeting at Upham Woods to review last summer's camping experience and resolve any issues that came up. Colleen's only issue at camp was the weather and she is hoping for a new air mattress for next year's outdoor adventure! The 4-H Recognition Banquet is coming up January 30th and all Ag & Ext members are invited to attend as our guests. The banquet will again be held at Retreat Sportsmen Club at noon and the theme this year is Sleigh Ride, so plan to wear your hat and scarf! Colleen is part of the Statewide Eat Well, Be Active Workteam and attended the meeting in Wisconsin Rapids to identify goals for the upcoming year. Sonya also attended the event and rode with Colleen. The University covered costs for travel and meals that day. The bill for State Fair Dairy trucking was received and was \$1,050. The county covers \$650, with the balance paid out of Rural Youth Account. The foodstand subcommittee met with Tim Rehbein and Lloyd Hardy, who were instrumental in discussing possibilities for the future of the foodstand. Tim and Colleen will be meeting with the Fairboard to seek their guidance and direction on key issues concerning the foodstand. Kim Ward and Melony Hansen will be joining the next Teen Court Advisory Board Meeting to discuss the possibility of referring youth with bullying issues to Teen Court and also a new program, Teen Intervene, for helping youth with alcohol and drug abuse issues. The 4-H Leader Parent Federation will be having elections at the January annual meeting (banquet). The open positions are for vice president and secretary. Colleen and other Federation members are actively seeking candidates for these positions. Colleen closed by thanking the board for their support in her tenure process.

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