

**Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee**  
*Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2014*

Chairman Kevin Larson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Present were: Larson, Mitchell, Easterday, Johnson, Rehbein, and Pulvermacher.

The public meeting notice was sent to the Vernon County Broadcaster, County Clerk and Computer Department on May 6, 2014.

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

The next meeting date is set for July 7, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

No visitors from the public were in attendance.

Easterday moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$803.22. Motion carried.

Mitchell moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the April office operations expenses of \$2,009.78 and special accounts of \$235.44. Motion carried.

Larson conducted the election of new committee officers. Johnson moved, Easterday seconded, to nominate Kevin Larson for Chairman, and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried.

Mitchell moved, Easterday seconded, to nominate Jerry Johnson for Vice-Chairman. Mitchell moved, Johnson seconded, to cast a unanimous ballot for Will Beitlich as Vice-Chairman. Motion carried.

WACEC meeting was discussed. Easterday doubtful if he can attend and Larson is not sure if he can attend as well.

***Rehbein reported on March and April activities:*** In March worked with the Vernon County Fair Livestock Sale Committee to change the hog weigh in and identification procedure to meet the new changes as a result of the PED virus infecting hog herds. There will not be a hog weigh in and exhibitors will need to come to the UW-Extension office to pick up ear tags and fill out a registration form. Exhibitors will be required to tag their own animals, return the registration form and send in a picture of their hogs with the RFID tag in the ear. Met with management at Westby Cooperative Creamery and staff from Premier Cooperative to discuss organic feed needs and prices for organic dairy producers and the pricing of organic milk. There is a need for more organic feed grains. Attended the annual Wisconsin Dairy Well-Being Conference in Eau Claire. The main presentation was on how to handle older dairy cows leaving the dairy herd. Conducted private pesticide applicator trainings in Hillsboro and Viroqua. Initiated the planning meetings for the annual dairy breakfast on the farm which will be held on Saturday, June 7 at the Steve and Gina Nickelotti Farm at Genoa. Kevin Larson is serving as breakfast chair. Assisted with a new beginner grape grower school held in Wisconsin Dells. Sixteen new growers attended a 3 day event that covered all aspects of starting a new vineyard. Organized a beginner hop program with the Extension staff from Door and

Kewaunee Counties. The event was held on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Expenses for the event were covered by a grant. In April worked with getting the livestock scale certified at the fairgrounds and assisted with the annual steer weigh in and identification. Conducted another pesticide applicator training session in Viroqua. Assisted a larger new grape grower with learning how to prune and develop a spray program for the year. Work with the cattlemen board with implementing the 2014 scholarship program. They selected 4 youth to each receive a \$400 scholarship. At state expense, attended the National Viticulture and Enology Extension Leadership Conference in Indianapolis. The Wisconsin state report was drafted and presented. Growth continues in Wisconsin and in many of the states east of the Rockies. Presented the "Tobacco to Grapes" story to the Monroe County HCE organization. Planned several days of vacation but ended up using many of those days to work with a potential buyer of the Premier Meats facility.

***Pulvermacher reported on March and April activities*** by using a Top Ten handout highlighting significant events. Colleen was elected to a 3 year term as Tenured Faculty Review; this is a review process for tenured colleagues. Seven colleague performance reviews were conducted and completed in April. County 4-H events included Sewing Day, 4-H Day at the Capitol, Dairy Judging and Cloverbud Day. These very successful events are possible due to our excellent volunteers and enthusiastic youth. On a national level, 4-H Space Camp was a great success once again this year. Colleen authored several letters of recommendation for scholarships, and even one to help a 4-H youth receive 3 lambs through the Junior Tar ghee Sheep Association Starter flock Program. The 4-H youth was indeed selected and will be receiving the lambs soon. Hillary Bark, from Crawford County, was selected as the 4-H Summer Assistant and she will start next Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Colleen conducted orientation for youth delegates to State Youth Conference via Wisline anytime, technology that allows youth and parents to participate in the orientation from the comfort of their homes, which they greatly appreciate. The current president of the federation is new to this leadership role and has limited understanding of the 4-H program operationally, so Colleen is investing time in assisting her in this role.

Late last year Matt Hanson, UW Extension Southern Regional Director, nominated Colleen for the National Extension Leadership Development (NELD), a leadership development program for UW Extension educators from a 12 state region. Colleen was selected and has been participating in the NELD program which began in January and will wrap up in September. The NELD program costs are covered entirely by the Dean's Office, no expense to Vernon County. A feature of enhancing leadership development is a cultural immersion project which Colleen just returned from, having traveled to Costa Rica. Colleen shared a bit about this experience and indicated she will have a power point program on the trip in coming weeks. Colleen completed Real Colors Certification so she is ready (and excited!) about teaching this temperament instrument to assist groups in team work, communication, conflict resolution, etc. Currently Colleen has four groups interested in this training. Colleen joined Tim at the County Leadership Conference, assisted in the Emotional Intelligence session, and other sessions.

The county topic of drug screening for volunteers was brought to Colleen's attention. Colleen clarified that UW-Extension volunteers – 4-H and Teen Court—are UW Extension Volunteers, where there is a statewide process in place: application, screening background check, and expectation statement. The county policy to drug test volunteers does not apply to UW Extension volunteers, per our System Legal Counsel, University of Wisconsin System Administration.

Johnson moved, Easterday seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.