

**Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee**  
*Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2014*

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

The public meeting notice was e-mailed on September 5, 2014 to the Vernon County Broadcaster, County Clerk and IT department.

Easterday moved, Beitlich seconded, to approve the August 18, 2014 minutes as sent. **Motion carried.**

No visitors from the public were in attendance.

The next meeting date will be October 9, 2014 at 1 p.m. in the UW-Extension conference room.

Traastad read a thank you note from Hillary Bark, Summer 4-H & Youth Intern. She really appreciated the pre-professional job experience here in the county.

Johnson moved, Easterday seconded, to approve the August office operation expenses of \$1,217.93 and special accounts of \$230.05. **Motion carried.**

Easterday moved, Beitlich seconded, to approve the August Teen Court expenses of \$750.00. **Motion carried.**

Traastad discussed the van's needed repairs with estimated costs of \$1454.00 to cover upper & lower ball joints, outer tie rod ends, broken spring, front end alignment and labor. Beitlich moved, Easterday seconded to approve the full repair of the 2002 Ford van. **Motion carried.**

Traastad presented information on the process of the visioning session for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension program area in Vernon County. It will be held October 9, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Erlandson Building. It is a public forum and will be posted as an open meeting announcement with no official business being conducted.

The goal of this process is to have public input in identifying critical needs, issues and opportunities facing agriculture and natural resources in Vernon County. The committee generated a list of names for a letter of invite to ag- producers, agri-business and ag- related agencies.

**Whitty reported on summer activities:** WNEP update: Sonya and Jen have continued to provide nutrition education at the senior meal sites in Vernon County. These sessions will be wrapped up by the end of the month. WNEP has also been preparing for the upcoming lessons in the schools. WNEP has agreements to provide lessons in Kickapoo, La Farge, and Prairieview (De Soto) Elementary schools and with the Hillsboro after school program. Jen will begin teaching lessons in Prairieview at the beginning of October. New this year, WNEP will be offering a family event at each of the schools to wrap up our lessons there. This is being done to reach more parents and provide them with nutrition education since they are the main gatekeepers for food in the home. This year the family event will focus on family meals and will include a free meal (with funding provided by the schools).

Jen also announced her resignation as her family is moving out of the area. Her last day in the office will be October 31<sup>st</sup>. Sonya will be posting the position in November and hopes to have someone starting early in the new year.

**Pulvermacher reported on recent activities:** Colleen reported an injury she sustained on a 4-H canoe trip, shattering a portion of her kneecap. This workman's comp accident is being processed through the State and will not impact Vernon County. Knee surgery is scheduled for early October. Colleen hopes to be back to work the end of October, pending doctor's work release orders. Lots of time was spent preparing for the county fair in this centennial year of Wisconsin 4-H. The 4-H anniversary was celebrated on the free stage, thanks to Donna Leum who helped coordinate. County fair went very well; many positive comments were received from fairgoers regarding exhibits, displays, and food stand. Colleen will be present at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> county board meeting to present a resolution acknowledging 100 years of Wisconsin 4-H. 4-H refreshments will be provided. Colleen will speak for just a few minutes about the 4-H program.

**Traastad reported on summer activities:** food preservation calls, canner lid testing and face to face with the public at Nelson Agri Center.

A slight increase in food safety questions seen this summer

Developed the department's 2015 office operations budget, 6 month 2014 budget summary, and looked at van repairs. Read 57 applications and interviewed 7 candidates for the Ag / Family Living support staff position.

Coordinated and promoted new fall classes of Strong Women / Strong Seniors in La Farge, Viroqua, Chaseburg, and Westby. All three classes have participants registered and classes started September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Worked on Reality Daze files and summaries for new planning committee for the 2015 event. Some paper files and electronic files copied on a flash drive were developed for 5 committee members.

Worked on state reports for Department of Family Development.

Johnson moved, Easterday seconded to adjourn. **Motion carried.**

**Minutes submitted by: Karen Ehle-Traastad**

