

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee *Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2014*

Chairman Kevin Larson called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. held at Land Conservation conference room. Present were: Larson, Beitlich, Easterday, Johnson, Mitchell, Pulvermacher, and Traastad.

The public meeting notice was e-mailed on October 31, 2014 to the Vernon County Broadcaster, County Clerk and IT department.

Johnson moved, Easterday seconded, to approve the October 9, 2014 minutes as sent. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting date will be December 11, 2014 at 11 a.m. in the UW-Extension conference room, Erlandson Building.

Visitors attending spoke in support of filling the vacant Agriculture Educator position.

Johnson moved, Beitlich seconded to approve the October Teen Court expenses of \$803.36. **Motion carried.**

Mitchell moved, Easterday seconded to approve the October Office Operation expenses of \$1,004.82. **Motion carried.**

Larson asked committee members to share any information they received in response to an informal poll they conducted of farmers on the need for an Agriculture Educator. Committee members reported they received positive comments for the need for this position.

Traastad referred to the October 9, 2014 Agriculture Visioning Session report to summarize what the public identified as critical needs, issues and opportunities facing agriculture and natural resources in Vernon County. There were 19 themes identified in the process from 38 participants excluding the UW-Extension staff in attendance.

Also shared was the 2014 Vernon County Agriculture: Value and Economic Impact report. This document summarized the latest economic agriculture data for Vernon County from the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

Discussion on the wide array of agriculture in the county and the need for a professional that can educate or provide programs to meet the varied needs identified at the visioning session.

Discussion also held on the temporary county hiring freeze put in place at the last County Board session. All positions need to be reviewed for approval by the county Personnel Committee before the permanent freeze starts in February 2015. Traastad has placed the Agriculture Educator position on the November 20, 2014 Personnel Committee agenda.

Beitlich moved, Mitchell seconded to support filling the vacant Agriculture Educator position and take it to the Personnel Committee on November 20, 2014 because of the temporary county hiring freeze. **Motion carried.**

Mitchell moved, Easterday seconded to approve the position's salary range from \$45,000 to \$55,000 depending on required diverse knowledge and experience of the applicant. **Motion carried.**

Traastad shared the written WNEP 2014 in Review report from Sonya Lenzendorf:

Pulvermacher reported on October 2014 activities:

Pulvermacher reported on October activities: Colleen attended the regional meeting in Wisconsin Dells. The focus was on networking weaving and effective teamwork. Colleen spent the rest of the month on medical leave due to knee surgery.

Traastad reported on October 2014 activities:

During October completed the annual county report as part of the county budget book and turned into the County Clerk's Office.

The Fall Strong Women classes held in Viroqua, Westby, and La Farge have 40 women registered. The total numbers for Winter, Spring, and Fall sessions are 147 women. The Strong Senior class in Chaseburg has 35 registered with 5 men participating.

Developed a display on these programs for a program the Hospital PT department held on falls prevention for older adults. This was in the agency resource display area.

Prepared for the October 9th Visioning Session demographics presentation and invitations to farmers, farm agency, agri business, and loan offices.

Attended the Home Care Coalition meeting to look at the feasibility report for the project.

Help promote and worked with Vernon County Domestic Abuse Fund Raiser held on Saturday, October 25th. Ten thousand dollars were raised for the county program to help victims because of matching funds from Vernon Memorial Healthcare.

Have worked on and submitted two report documents to Family Development Department. One on the Healthy Hearts pilot project and one on 10 years of the Strong Women Program's impact. Waiting for review and edits.

Will spend time the rest of the month getting ready for our Civil Rights review audit on December 4th. A team from Madison will review our programs in light of reaching diverse audiences.

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

Minutes submitted by: Karen Ehle-Traastad

