

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee *Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2014*

Chairman Kevin Larson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. held at the UW-Extension conference room. Present were: Larson, Beitlich, Easterday, Johnson, Mitchell, Pulvermacher, and Traastad.

The public meeting notice was e-mailed on December 9, 2014 to the Vernon County Broadcaster, County Clerk and IT department.

Mitchell moved, Beitlich seconded, to approve the November 13, 2014 minutes as sent. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting date will be January 8, 2015 at 11 a.m. in the Land Conservation meeting room.

There were no visitors in attendance.

Beitlich moved, Johnson seconded to approve the November Teen Court expenses of \$1,506.04. **Motion carried.**

Easterday moved, Mitchell seconded to approve the November Office Operation expenses of \$790.59. **Motion carried.**

Mitchell moved, Beitlich seconded to approve the Ho-Chunk Funds of \$18.08 for Strong Women expenses. **Motion carried.**

Traastad talked about annual review dates open for Matt Hanson, Regional Director to visit in February. Committee would like February 16, 2015, to meet before bills are due to the Finance Committee.

Traastad gave an update on the Agriculture Educator position. They are writing the job posting for a general agriculture position and it should be posted on the UW-Extension job website on January 23, 2015. It will close on February 24, 2015 for applications. There is a screening by Agriculture & Natural Resource program area that will be completed about March 6th with March 13th tentatively set for preliminary interviews in Madison. We hope to have interviews in Vernon County with the committee on March 30, 2015. Karen will check on pesticide applicator training that needs to be available to the county farmers to see how UW-Extension can offer that program.

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

December, 11, 2014 – WNEP Report

- I wrapped up my 6-week series of nutrition education in 3rd – 5th grades at North Crawford School this week. Next week, I will be holding a family night at the school where we will talk about ways to have family meals together and families will get a chance to prepare the meal that night together.
- I prepared and participated in the county Civil Rights Day last week.
- I attended and presented at a food pantry workshop held at Living Faith Food Pantry. Food pantries throughout Vernon County attended.

- Looking ahead, we hope to post the nutrition educator position February 16th. The process will last 2-3 months, so I am hoping to have someone hired by May. If anyone would be interested or will want to be part of the interview committee, please let me know.

Submitted by: Sonya Lenzendorf, WNEP Coordinator.

Pulvermacher reported on November 2014 activities: Teen Court has been very busy, with nine referrals in December, resulting in two Teen Court sessions. Colleen noted that Teen Court annual expenses are reflected in the Teen Court financial report. These annual expenses are budgeted and fully covered by fees youth offenders pay to participate in Teen Court. Colleen indicated the UW-Extension website has reset our county website, creating challenges. Colleen intends to seek out an IT student to help her better understand how to make the best use of the Word Press program used to maintain our county website. Colleen was contacted by the Unit on Aging due to her connection with managing volunteers. Together with the Aging unit staff and their meal site ambassadors; the workshop was designed to help the volunteers realize their strengths using the Real Colors[®] personality tool, thereby building their capacity as an effective working team with a shared vision. Evaluations were very positive, indicating that the event was truly appreciated and valued. More than one person suggested that this event be held annually. Colleen was asked to serve on a statewide team overhauling the Volunteer Orientation process for UW-Extension volunteers. The need to do this stems from the change in the law that all UW-Extension volunteers are now mandated reporters. Colleen agreed to serve on this team as long as expenses are covered by the state. The state agreed and Colleen participated in a two day meeting with none of the expenses charged to the county. The annual 4-H recognition banquet will be held on Sunday, January 18th at 1 p.m. at Retreat Sportsmen's Club. The snow date is January 25th. Ag and Ext Committee members and spouses are our guests and will be receiving official invitations. Colleen hopes all of you can attend. The 4-H volunteers have been very busy completing charters, working on the budget, banquet, trip award selections, and making plans for 2015. Colleen noted several night and weekend meetings in recent weeks. A significant amount of time in November was dedicated to prepping for a state Civil Rights audit in which we need to generate many reports showing our outreach in terms of protected audiences, such as women, Amish, disabled, elderly, low-income, etc. Colleen indicated she would be completing the Civil Rights Action Plan and submitting that to the state this week. Colleen noted that Karen provided excellent leadership in getting the office staff ready for the Civil Rights review. Colleen was delighted to showcase the 2015 Grow and Show Calendar published by Equity Livestock Auction. Two Vernon County 4-H members, Katherine Larson and Michael Krause, had their photos selected and featured in this calendar. Colleen indicated she is still in physical therapy twice a week for continuing recovery of her reconstructive knee surgery.

Traastad reported on November 2014 activities:

Attended the Strong Senior Chaseburg program to exercise with the class and then spent several hours with volunteer instructor Linda Watson, training her on the updated curriculum. There are new exercises to add to the program to help participants advance in their strength and balance.

Attended a state training held by UW-Extension Family Living Program area in Wisconsin Dells. I transported Kathy Trussoni, who is a new volunteer instructor for the Chaseburg Strong Senior program. This is a required curriculum training in order to lead a Strong Women / Strong Senior class. This is paid by our department's Ho-Chunk fund request.

Attended the Personnel Committee meeting on November 20, 2014 as requested to review and consider open positions in county departments. I shared the October visioning session report, The Vernon County Agriculture: Value & Economic Impact report, and gave details of UW-Extension's support for salary and fringes for the position. A motion was made and approved to refill the UW-Extension Agriculture position by the Personnel Committee.

As a total office, we prepared for the required office Civil Rights review by a state team from UW-Extension. We showed our diversity in programs and how we reach our diverse clientele in the county. This was held December 4, 2014 in our office.

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

Minutes submitted by: Karen Ehle-Traastad