



Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee

Regular Monthly Meeting – January 14th, 2020

Monroe County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Drive, Sparta, WI

Committee Members present: N. VanWychen, A. McCoy, W. Habhegger, and. K.Raymer (FSA Rep.)

Not Present: D. Pierce, J. Schroeder

Also Present: B. Micheel (LC), B. Richardson (LC), R. Anderson (Land Use Planner), C. Ziegler (Parks), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), J. Goede (4H), J. Roll (History), C. Gilman (Forester), M. Modjeski (Warden) P. Peterson (WAP) and T. Townsell (Ft. McCoy).

The meeting notice was posted in compliance with the open meeting law.

Call to Order: Chairman N. VanWychen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Public Comment Period: None

Approve Minutes from the December 10th NR & Extension Meeting: The committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by W. Habhegger, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 3-0-3.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: None

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto: J. Roll reviewed report. (Report Attached)

1. **Review/Approve Monthly Report and Financial Report:** J. Roll reviewed monthly report and financials.

Motion made by W. Habhegger to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 3-0-3

Kevin Raymer arrived 9:05

County Farm Education Funds: None

Extension Office Business:

1. **Review December Expenditures:** C. Saxe reviewed monthly expenditures.
2. **Introduction of Health & Well- Being Educator:** Craig had April Anderson introduce herself.
3. **4H & Youth Development Report:** J. Goede reviewed report. (Report Attached)
4. **Agriculture Report:** Halfman reviewed report. (Report Attached)
5. **AED Update:** C. Saxe reported that the administrative assistant position has 37 applications, interviewing six individuals this Friday.

Motion made by W, Habhegger to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 4-0-2.

NRCS Report: NRCS has not yet announced programs sign-ups this year. There are many process changing that seem to be delaying the sign-ups. CRP will be getting more attention by NRCS, more requirements for field verification to practices starting in 2020. NRCS is working with UW-Ext in Monroe and La Crosse counties to plan a soil health day and possibly a nutrient management meeting and a CRP installation and management meeting. Discussed the process of conservation compliance reviews.

Fort McCoy Update: T. Townsell reported in the month of December she invited staffers from our federally elected office out to Fort McCoy to update them on what's going on. The dining facilities is

becoming multifunctional facility. Showed the housing area. Fort McCoy is not privatized housing. 38 graduation from the cold weather operations training. Two car traffic at the main gate, was handle as quickly as they could. Working on the getting the economic impacted information finalize for the last physical year. At the end of December we signed our first inter-governmental supports agreement with the county. Federal budget is completed.

Wildlife Abatement Program:

1. **Set 2019 Crops Price – Review/Approve**

Motion made by W. Habheggar to accept the 2019 Crop Price, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 4-0-2

2. **Set 90 Percent Harvest Date for 2019 – Review/Approve**

Motion made by A. McCoy to accept the 90 Percent Harvest Date for 2019, second by W. Habheggar. Motion carried 4-0-2

3. **2019 Claims Review/ Approve-** Denied Pending Appeal.

Motion made by W. Habheggar to deny the 2019 Claim, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 4-0-2

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Review December Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed monthly expenditures.

2. **Line Item Transfer – Review/Approve**

Motion made by W. Habheggar to accept the Line Transfer, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 4-0-2

3. **Budget Adjustment – Review/Approve**

Motion made by A. McCoy to accept the Budget Adjustment, second by W. Habheggar. Motion carried 4-0-2

4. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel reviewed report. (Report Attached)

5. **2019 Conservation Year in Review:** C. Mulder presented a PowerPoint of the 2019 construction highlights.

6. **Soil & Water Conservationist Report:** B. Richardson reviewed report. (Report Attached)

7. **Land Use Planner Report:** R. Anderson reviewed report. (Report Attached)

DNR Forestry Reports:

1. **Warden:** M. Modjeski reported ice fishing/trapping enforcement otters, bob cats, fishers. Open burning complaints. Elk in Warren's area has a broken back leg, passed along to elk biologist. Helping with warden training at Fort McCoy.

2. **Forestry:** C. Gilman

- a. **Approve Emergency Fire Warden List for 2020**

Motion made by W. Habheggar to accept the Emergency Fire Warden list for 2020, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 4-0-2

3. **Managed Forest Law Program:** None

Forestry & Parks:

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler reported doing admin on sale 153 in New Lyme. Lamberts cut about half of it, had enough cold weather to move into a winter sale. Working on timber sale set up and some boundary work in the town of Lincoln near McMullen Park. Working on updates to the County Forest 15 year plan, has gotten first rounds done on 3 chapters. Cut down ash trees at Angelo Wayside along the property line. Burned brush at Angelo and McMullen. Meeting at Fort McCoy about trail reroute. (Report Attached)

2. **Line item Transfer – Review/Approve**

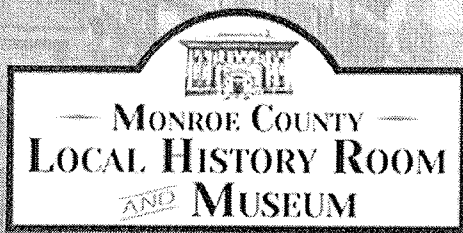
Motion made by A. McCoy to accept the Line Transfer, second by W. Habheggar. Motion carried 4-0-2

3. **Review Forestry & Parks October Expenditures:** C. Ziegler reviewed monthly expenditures.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 11th, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Recorder: Arin Gowan



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since 1976.*

LHR Director / County Historian's Report, December 2019
Submitted by Jarrod Roll

Highlighted Projects and Activities by Jarrod Roll, Hannah Scholze, and Volunteers

- Processed donations to the 2019 Annual Fund (entered donation amounts, generated receipts for each donor, sent thank you letters)
- Organized, promoted, and hosted "Winter Break Craft Day at the Museums" along with the Deke Slayton Museum
- Promoted "Christmas Mountain" display
- Designed and mailed a "reminder to give to the Annual Fund" postcard
- Hosted the Monroe County Economic Development and Tourism Committee at the History Room
- Finalized the 2020 "History Live" public programming series and started to promote
- Generated multiple pages of content for the MCHS newsletter
- Began planning for the photographic display about the 1980 Cuban Refugee Crisis
- Promoted the sale of 2019 Plat Book
- Coordinated the update of the "Monroe County Museums" brochure, working with the printer and involved museums

In addition to the projects listed above, the Director supervises the following volunteer and support staff:

- Hannah Scholze (Museum Services Associate): runs Facebook; teaches students; assists with research, exhibits, marketing, and most projects listed above, etc.
- Agnes Jenkins: indexing newspapers
- Dennis Burek: photo scanning projects; artifact cataloging; assist with clerical duties
- Barb Reedich: researching Monroe County schools; answer research requests; assist with exhibits
- Jane Schmidt: indexing jail registers and school censuses
- Jim Ebert: indexing newspapers
- Sandy Waltermann: creating a master index of Monroe County graduates
- Adam Balz: indexing Indian Census records; researching and writing about county topics
- Marilyn Beall: indexing county records; assisting with exhibits and collections
- Barb Reisinger: indexing newspapers
- Sara Oostdik: processing images scanned from photos shared by patrons; provides collections management assistance
- Kirstin Hoffland: on call employee who assists with a variety of office and library tasks
- Stephanie Clark: on call employee who is indexing county jail records and who assists with a variety of office and library tasks
- TEN indexers from home: seven indexing newspapers, two indexing church records, and one indexing tax rolls

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Joshua L. Goede

Shooting Sports

WOW! There were 58 students in attendance at the Safety training on January 6. This will be the 3rd time the program has doubled in 4 years. We only have equipment for 40 youth, so the decision was made to divide the group in two with ½ coming every other week. This cuts practice time in ½ but safety is the primary concern.

Agents 4 Change w/Monroe County Safe Community Coalition

Agents 4 Change taught classroom presentations on December 17th at Cashton Elementary. The counselor at NOW has been contacted and will work to get on his schedule for NOW presentations. Sparta looks like we can get into all the 7th grade classes in March. We have yet to develop a plan for reaching into Tomah. We have discussed the idea of the steering committee with the leadership at Monroe County Safe Community Coalition, the idea is strongly supported. Another opportunity came from discussions. Agents 4 Change will attempt Round Tables in Cashton and NOW. The youth will participate with a facilitator to discuss their knowledge, concerns, and insights on the issues in their schools around substance use by students. Very exciting as this information could have many uses.

UW Reporting

The Agent has worked on reviewing the year and planning the coming 18 months. The coming year will focus on two areas in our program. The adult leaders' knowledge, involvement and participation in county 4-H programs and management. The 2nd area will be

more youth centered in building youth-adult partnerships. There are many areas that we involve youth as equal partners, examples include Jr. Leaders, particularly the Cloverbud camps and the Ice Cream Stand. We are also developing a more community-based Y-AP in the Agents 4 Change program where we will hopefully have members from the schools involved in the program. There is much potential.

Clover College

The annual Clover College and Jr. Leader Lock in is scheduled for February 8 from Noon to 4pm with the Lock-In starting at 4:30pm. Jr. Leaders have signed up to teach fun content classes in Natural, Mechanical, and Animal Sciences. There will also be Arts & Crafts, Nutrition, and of course fun recess games.

Way Finders 4-H Club

The new military friendly club Way Finders 4-H held their first meeting on January 12. The new club leaders are a former military family. They are very interested in working with military families, so they get the full 4-H experience. There are many considerations to be had when working with military families, not least of all is the fluctuation in attendance and family dynamics. The leaders are excited to find a model that will work.

VIP

There will be VIP Trainings on Feb. 1, 4 and 12. We will assess how many volunteers still need training after these three sessions and plan more. The next round will include a Tomah option. There are many new volunteers this year at least 10 that would like to assist with the program this year. This is exciting.

Continuing Programs

COMING SOON

- Jan. 31, 2nd round of Travel Applications due.
- Feb. 8 Clover College, Sparrow's Nest at the Abbey Rural Sparta
- March 21, Festival of Arts, Meadowview Intermediate School, Sparta
- April 18, 30th Anniversary Fur, Fin, & Feather Show, Barney Center, Sparta

• Jr. Leaders

- Jr. Leaders will be running Clover College on Feb. 8th.

• Volunteers in Preparation

- See Full Report

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Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Highlights Update December 10, 2019 through January 13, 2019

Christmas and New Years slowed things down a little during this time.

The Ag Agent led efforts to develop a closeout spreadsheet for grazing stocker calves. I will be released soon.

The annual UW Agronomy Update for agronomy professionals was held on January 9th at Jakes. In spite of the icy roads we had 25 participants at the workshop. Topics covered included:

Corn

- Post-mortem of the 2019 corn planting season
- Variability of the 2019 trials and what it means for selecting hybrids.
- Corn nutrient uptake during grain filling
- The corn stover project
- Milk2020: The next step in evaluating corn silage quality

Soybeans and Small Grains

- Variety trial overview with trait analysis
- Sulfur and micronutrient trial updates
- Yield gap planting date results
- Cover crop termination timing
- Intensive cereal management for wheat

The first of several Farm Bill Crop sign up workshops was held in Tomah on January 10th. The Ag Agents from La Crosse, Vernon and Monroe Counties worked together to present information on the new rules and sign up recommendations.

Upcoming Events-

January 9th Agronomy Update for Ag Professionals- Sparta

January 14-16 Crop Mgt Conference- Madison

January 18 North Central Cattlemen's Winter Conference

January 21 Farm Bill Workshop Hillsboro

January 22-23 Cranberry School

January 23 Farm Bill Workshop- Bangor

January 24th Western Wisconsin Beef Producers Annual Meeting

January 29th Farm Transfer Workshop- St. Joseph

January 30-31 Driftless Region Beef Conference- Dubuque

February 4 Beef Quality Assurance Cashton

February 6 Private Pesticide Applicator Workshop- Tomah

February 7 Private Pesticide Applicator Workshop- Sparta

February 12 Private Pesticide Applicator Workshop- Tomah

February 21-22 Wisconsin Cattlemen's Winter Conference

February 24-27 UW Cattle Feeders Workshop- various (Bangor local stop)

Feb 29th Annual Hops Winter Conference

Additional workshops are being developed.

January 14th, 2020 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel - County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Coon Creek Watershed Meeting – Two meetings are scheduled for January 30th in the Coon Creek Watershed to give residents/landowners an update on the status of the PL566 structures, investigation report and the watershed study. Leis Excavating finished stabilizing the three breached dams & removing channel debris.
- Land Stewardship Awards Banquet – Sell Tickets!!! **77** Registered to date.
- Trees Sales Program – 4,648 trees sold for **\$6,016** to date.
- Private Well Testing – Plan to start the private well water sampling program in Monroe County by the end of January; target 10-12 samples per township. Working with the Central WI Groundwater Center at Stevens Point.
- Climate Change Task Force – At the last meeting, Bobbi Jo Fischer with the WDNR discussed the stream/river crossing (culvert/bridge) evaluation process for the state. Meeting notes posted on the LCD website.
- Tri-Creek Property & the County Farm – Plan to extend the cropland lease at the county farm for one year under current agreements. The Tri-Creek property (Kastberg farm) will be open for bids this year minus acres enrolled into the CREP program and the 6 acre field (potential CRP), south of the stream.
- Farmland Preservation Program (FLP) – The LCD will be offering \$2,000 signup bonus to landowners within the two Agriculture Enterprises Areas for signing up under the FLP Program. This incentive is to increase participation in the FLP program.
- Office Re-Model – 3 new offices under construction.
- 2019 Year in Review – Highlights:
 - Held 3 CWD Summits to educate the public
 - The LCD spent over \$200,000 installing conservation practices, (federal dollars not included)
 - Secured funding for private well water testing & FLP incentives program
 - Hired the first Land Use Planner, Summer Intern and a new Administrative Assistant
 - The LCD & the County Adm. developed the Monroe County Climate Change Task Force
 - Many Information & Educational Events: Dairy Breakfast, WPR, TV, Newspapers, Facebook, website, meetings & presentations
 - 3rd year of the Tree Program, exceeded \$10,000 in sales.

Meeting Schedule:

- January 14th – School Board Meeting – School Woods Agreement
- January 16th – CWD Task Force
- January 22nd – CCTF sub-committee Meeting – Comp. Plan Development
- January 23rd – Tri-Creek Land Use Planning Meeting
- January 25th – Land Stewardship Awards Banquet
- January 28th – Tech Update – Richland Center
- January 29th – Friends of the School Woods
- January 30th – Coon Creek Watershed meetings – Coon Valley/Cashton
- February 4-5th – Driftless Symposium
- February 5 – MCISWG & Land Stewardship Awards Committee
- February 11th - Natural Resource & Extension Committee
- February 12th – CCTF – Host state CCTF members

January 14, 2020-- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**

- Surveying projects for 2020.
- Mailed 2019 Nonmetallic Mining Annual Report and 2020 Fee Assessment. Fees due 1/31/20
- Received 35 posters for environmental poster contest in 4 different age groups. Winners in each age group advance to Viroqua to compete in the Western Area contest in late January.
- Staked out 2 CREP projects.

Christina Mulder

- **Technician Work**

- Surveying 2020 dam sites with GPS and Total Station equipment. Also gathering soil samples to see if the sites have enough clay material to build a structure.
- Attended the Soil, Water & Nutrient Management Meeting hosted by UW Extension on Wednesday, December 4th.

- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

- I have begun the enrollment paperwork for the 15-Year Agreement contract holders.
- Perpetual Easement contract holders will need to be GPSed and staked out prior to easement paperwork.

- **Land Stewardship Awards**

- Committee meeting held on Wednesday, December 4th to plan the upcoming 2019 Land Stewardship Awards Banquet

January 2020 - Land Use Planner's Report

Roxie Anderson

Activities:

- Comprehensive Plans - Summary of activities:
 - Met with Town of Grant Planning Commission on Dec. 10 for working session #4
 - Meetings with Town of Glendale and Oakdale were re-scheduled due to low attendance and weather.
 - Data gathering tasks – downloaded American Community Survey (ACS) recently released 2018 – 2014, 5YR Housing, Social and Economic Characteristics data sets. Also downloaded ACS for 2011-2015 time period and 2010 Decennial Census Data to update data for comprehensive plans that use data from 2000 Decennial Census Data.
- Climate Change Task Force: Meetings on Dec. 11 and Jan. 8 were well attended.
 - Dec. 11 meeting - We had 29 attendees which featured a guest speaker from the Iowa Flood Center, there was also media coverage of this meeting. State and Federal agency representatives were in attendance along with political representatives.
 - Jan. 8 meeting - We had 22 attendees and our guest speaker was Bobbi Jo Fischer from WI DNR her presentation on culvert design for stream crossings provided great information that we hope to utilize for the County highways and Town roads. We also provided some startup project cost scenarios for the real-time weather monitoring and warning system, which will be forwarded to Senator Tammy Baldwin's team for grant opportunities.
 - Meeting with Town and Village board members – Several Town and Village board members have been invited to attend a discussion to integrate climate change adaptation/mitigation policies and/or practices into local comprehensive plans. The meeting is set for Jan. 22 and will propose to establish a subcommittee to develop a template.
- Grant Funding Opportunities – I am working on the following grant applications:
 - WI DNR Municipal Flood Control Grant – working with Alison to submit grant applications with Towns of Leon, Sparta, and Portland for voluntary buyout properties that have been submitted for FEMA grant funding. The goal is to request funding to cover the 12.5% local match requirement for the FEMA grant. I will be coordinating with the Towns on grant applications. Grant applications are due March 15.
 - FEMA Pre-disaster Mitigation Grant Program – I am working with FEMA's program coordinator to submit a planning grant application that would request funding for planning activities related to integrating Hazard Mitigation Planning Policies into our local Comprehensive Plans. Grant application is due January 31.
- Planning Activities – Reviewed and submitted comments on two subdivision projects. Attended Zoning Committee meeting on Dec. 16 to present comments and answer questions from applicants.
- Economic Development Committee – attended Jan. 9 meeting and was appointed as advisory member of the Economic Development Committee.

Meetings / Trainings:

- January 14– Town of Grant Planning Commission working session #5
- January 15 – Town of Glendale Planning Commission working session #5
- January 22 – Climate Change Task Force meeting with Town and Village board members
- January 23 – Tri-Creek Land Use Committee meeting
- January 27 – Town of Oakdale Planning Commission working session #3
- February 4 & 5 – Driftless Symposium

Forestry & Parks Report (January) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Sale 153 – New Lyme
- Timber sale set up
- Boundary work – Lincoln – 1 mile
- Updates: 15 Year County Forest Plan – Chapters 100, 200, 400

Parks:

- Ash tree removal
- Burned brush – Angelo & McMullen
- Update Safety Binders

Snowmobile:

- Meeting at Fort McCoy for trail reroute
- GIS updates
- Recommendation letter to Governor's Snowmobile Rec. Council for Nancy Olson

Other:

- WCFA Conference Call
- Department Head Meeting