



Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee

Regular Monthly Meeting – February 11th, 2020

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

Committee Members present: N. VanWychen, A. McCoy, W. Habhegger, D. Pierce, and J. Schroeder

Not Present: K. Raymer (FSA Rep.)

Also Present: B. Micheel (LC), B. Richardson (LC), R. Anderson (Land Use Planner), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), J. Roll (History), M. Mickelson (Forester), M. Modjeski (Warden), M. Komiskey (NRCS), P. Peterson (WAP) and T. Townsell (Ft. McCoy), A. Anderson (Health Educator), B. Halfman (UW-EXT).

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 January 14th NR & Extension Meeting: The committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by A. McCoy, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 4-0-1.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: None

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

1. **Review January Expenditures:** J. Roll reported nothing needed further explanation.

2. **Review/ Approve budget adjustment : 2019 Summer Inter:**

Motion made by W. Habhegger to accept 2019 Summer Inter budget adjustment, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0-1.

3. **Review/Approve budget adjustment: 2019 Museum Service Associate hours:**

Motion made by W. Habhegger to accept 2019 Museum Service Associate hours, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 5-0-1.

County Farm Education Funds: None

Extension Office Business:

1. **Review January Expenditures:** C. Saxe reviewed monthly expenditures.

2. **Introduction of Administrative Assistant, Vicky Kast:** Craig had Vicky Kast introduce herself.

3. **4H & Youth Development Report:** (Report Attached)

4. **Agriculture Report:** B. Halfman reviewed report. (Report Attached)

5. **Health & Well-Being/FoodWise Report:** A. Anderson reviewed report. (Report Attached)

6. **AED Update:** C. Saxe reported that both April and Vicky would benefit with having a purchase card.

NRCS Report: M. Komiskey reported NRCS reported EQIP sign-up deadline is announced as February 28, 2020. This includes all fund pools for EQIP. A second sign-up is possible with deadline of June 5th. There are many software changes this year and it is going to be a challenge to get workload completed.

Fort McCoy Update: T. Townsell reported cold weather training is still on going. 14 Marines graduated from cold weather training. Her effort while she is here is to expand the knowledge that Fort McCoy is here. Spring and summer training. Engaging van pool interest, to car pool to Fort McCoy. Military of Defense is marking the 75th Anniversary of Key World War II Battles.

Wildlife Abatement Program:

1. **2019 Abatement Appeal – Mark Drake**

Motion made by J. Schroeder to accept the 2019 Abatement Appeal, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 4-1-1.

2. **Elk Presentation:** P. Peterson gave a short PowerPoint presentation on elk damage.

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Review January Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed monthly expenditures.
2. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel reviewed report. (Report Attached)
 - **Review/Approve Fishing Easement:**

Motion made by D.Pierce to accept Sherry Kopka fishing easement second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 5-0-1

3. **Soil & Water Conservationist Report:** B. Richardson reviewed report. (Report Attached)
4. **Land Use Planner Report:** R. Anderson reviewed report. (Report Attached)

DNR Forestry Reports:

1. **Warden:** M. Modjeski reported someone took a wild raccoon and kept it for months inside their house, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator took in the raccoon. Unknown spill in Wilton, happened to be the Feed Mill. They had a soy bean oil spill, somewhere between 200-300 gallons.
4. **Forestry:** M. Mickelson reported there is one Monroe sale active currently in New Lyme Township, nearly finished 71 acres. Private Landowners in Monroe County have 20,000 trees of varying species to plant this spring. Oak still available to order, both red & white. As fire season approaches “Check Before You Burn” signs are being requested from townships. Opened it up to the townships in DNR protection. Delivered 10 signs so far. Ideally displayed somewhere that interfaces a lot with the public – town dumps, halls, shops.
5. **Managed Forest Law Program:** None

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** (Report Attached)
2. **Review Forestry & Parks January Expenditures:** Reviewed monthly expenditures.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Recorder: Arin Gowan



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

LHR Director / County Historian's Report, January 2020
Submitted by Jarrod Roll

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

- Uninstalled the Christmas Village display (packed up the buildings and accessories back into their boxes, dismantled wooden base, moved collection to church storage; drew up deed of gift form for Cooks to sign)
- Promoted History-Live series of presentations
- Processed new donations to LHR including assigning accession numbers, research history of said items, and locate a storage space for each
- Provided educational programming to students at LHR
- Dismantled Schools display and assigned storage locations for previously displayed artifacts
- Installed the exhibit, "Lost Voices of Mariel," about the 1980 Cuban Refugee Crisis. This is a joint venture between UW La Crosse, Ft. McCoy, and the LHR. Activities included: researching the topic, writing interpretive labels, choosing the photos to include, selecting artifacts to include, coordinating with Fort McCoy about the loan of artifacts, communicating with curator of photography section of the exhibit to make sure he approves label copy, purchasing supplies, fabricating and painting display walls
- Promote Cuban refugee exhibit, including doing interview with newspaper
- Began tabulating end of year financial report for LHR
- Researched what it would take to set up live video feed of LHR programming, projected onto a screen at the DSM.
- Processed financial contributions to the 2019 Annual Fund (entered donation amounts, generated receipts for each donor, sent thank you letters)
- Trained new on-call staff member, Erica Koonman

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
- Erica Koonman: 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



Joshua L. Goede

Shooting Sports

We have continued to have growing pains but have managed to make forward progress. The committee has divided the families into two groups, the kids will come every other week. This will give kids 6 sessions. The fair shoot will be on the March 30.

Agents 4 Change w/Monroe County Safe Community Coalition

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. The dates in Cashton will be in March.

Clover College

The annual Clover College and Jr. Leader Lock 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 insect pinning, Sharpie painting, poultry, apple art, and of course fun recess games. 24 little Cloverbuds came to learn and play and 15 Jr. Leaders stayed for the Lock-in.

VIP

There will be VIP Trainings on February 12 and March 19. We will assess how many volunteers still need training after these three sessions and plan more. The March date will be in Tomah. There are many new volunteers this year at least 6 more that would like to assist with the program this year. This is exciting.

Festival of Arts

The annual Festival of Arts is the opportunity for our 4-Hers to perform. There is also an art show and face to face judging where youth talk to caring adults about the project they have brought. Photos are also displayed and discussed. This event will be on March 21, in the Meadowview Elementary School. It will start at 8:30 am.

Fur, Fin, & Feather

The annual small animal show is a learning environment for you to learn how to show rabbits, poultry, cats and various caged small animals. There is also an opportunity for Cloverbuds to share a poster talking about their pets or small animals that they care for. This event will be a Sparta's Barney Center on Saturday, April 18. The judging starts at 9 am.

Continuing Programs

COMING SOON

- 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 meeting in April to plan the Ice Cream stand and summer trip.
- Volunteers in Preparation
 - See Full Report

University of Madison - Monroe County

Monroe County Extension Office

14345 County Highway B, Room 1

Sparta, WI 54656

Phone: (608)269-8722

Fax: (608)366-1809

Wisconsin Relay: 711



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Highlights Update January 14, 2020 through February 11, 2020

The Agriculture Agent attended the UW & WABA Crop Management Conference in Madison January 14 through the 16th. The conference is in-service training on a wide variety of crops and soils related topics with presenters being researchers from UW as well as other Universities in the upper Midwest on their current research and how it applies to agronomy in Wisconsin.

The Ag Agent presented information on cost of production at the North Central Cattlemen's annual winter conference at Marathon City on Feb 18th. The Ag Agent in Taylor County also assists with educational efforts in our area.

Farm bill update workshops were conducted by the Monroe and Vernon County Ag Agents in Hillsboro and Bangor on January 21 and 23rd respectively to go over changes in the ACR and PLC programs for the current farm bill.

The Western Wisconsin Beef Producers Cooperative held their annual meeting January 24th. The Ag Agent serves as an advisor to the group and the group helps support area beef workshops throughout the year. The Ag Agent assisted with finding a guest speaker (Tammy Vaassen Wisconsin Beef Council Executive Director) for their meeting. There were approximately 100 people at the event.

The Ag Agent assisted with the Monroe County Conservation Awards Recognition Dinner, serving as the AV person and as needed. The Ag Agent also helps provide pictures and video footage of the award recipients land and farms. The Ag Agent serves on the planning/ steering committee for the event.

The students who helped with research projects this past summer presented their projects at the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium competition on January 25th. Here is their teacher's description of the competition *"Tough tough tough competition. The girls did a super job presenting- best ever, but they didn't place. Very proud of them!! They both want to do another project next year and Megan said she was so happy she did a project because she learned so much! It's a tribute to you, Bill!! Poor Emma was so nervous she got sick before the presentation! But she did awesome! Aiden did great too- he got 5th - doesn't win any \$ but gets a trip the nationals. There were 12 presenters."*

The Ag Agents in La Crosse, Vernon and Jackson County held a regional meeting on Farm Transition at St. Joseph Ridge on January 29. The workshop was well attended. The workshop was set up such that there were formal presentations from a number of speakers in the morning and in the afternoon participants could speak one on one with them for information specific to their situation. A follow up to this workshop is in the works.

The Ag Agent was at a mentor training in-service on January 29th as part of the mentoring program to help new county educators with getting started.

The Ag Agent visited two beef operations, one in South East MN, the other in eastern IA with UW Animal Science professor Dr. Dan Schaefer to look at how one farm was managing the dairy beef cross calves and the other to see how this particular farm was managing their feeding system, by feeding a self feeder type ration in J bunks. The information gained will help with educational efforts for producers in the area.

The Ag Agent attended the Driftless Region Beef conference in Dubuque IA January 30 and 31. This workshop is a multi-state effort with Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin Extension working together. The Ag Agent is a member of the planning and steering committee for the event. Several presentations were given over the two days, and the information presented will be used to help develop articles and used at workshops in the area.

The Ag Agent presented information on winter feeding beef cattle and forage management options to the North Central Highland Cattle Breeders Association at their annual meeting that was held in Warrens on February 1st and 2nd. There were approximately 75 people at the meeting.

The Vernon and Monroe County Ag Agents conducted a Beef Quality Assurance workshop for the region in Cashton on February 4th. There were approximately 18 beef producers at the workshop. The majority of the producers were certified last year.

The Ag Agent attended a hemp production in-service training where Extension field staff were provided with updates on this past year's research conducted by UW, and an update from Department of Agriculture.

Private Pesticide Applicator certification were held on February 6 and 7 and the last one will be held on Feb 12 for the county this year.

Upcoming Events-

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

March 16 Advanced Weed Management Conference for Farmers- Bangor

Additional workshops are being developed.

April Anderson

Coalitions

I joined Monroe County's Nutrition Coalition and the Mental Health Coalition. I look forward to attending the meetings to learn more about the needs of our county and how I can help address them.

Training

I completed the following required trainings: "Mandated Reporter" and "Preventing Sexual Harassment & Sexual Violence".

StrongBodies

I observed a StrongBodies program in Sparta and in Tomah. I met with Nancy and Shirley, our two dedicated volunteer leaders, to learn more about the program and how to help facilitate it. I will be attending StrongBodies training on March 4th in Stevens Point. This training will allow me to fill in as a substitute when necessary. Nancy had a new session start on February 3rd and I helped with registration.

FoodWise

I have been working through the online course "FoodWise: Healthy Choices, Healthy Lives". I am currently working on the fourth module, "Nutrition through the Lifespan". My program manager, Cara Cross, came to the office on January 24th to provide FoodWise orientation, which included curriculum, resources, data, and other important information. I connected with Kathryn Boryc, the state program

manager. I also participated in a classroom management meeting and a coordinator's meeting.

HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living)

My program manager, Angie Flickinger, and I had a meeting on January 22nd to discuss the HEAL side of my position. We discussed meetings I need to attend, site visits with neighboring colleagues, a needs assessment, programming, and training. I also participated in a Health & Well-Being Institute meeting. These meetings take place monthly.

HCE (Home and Community Education)

I attended the Home and Community Education Board meeting. On a bimonthly basis I will put the newsletter together and send it to members. On February 4th I had HCE orientation with Michelle TideMann, the state liaison for this organization.

Office

I familiarized myself with the materials in my office. I read through Erin's Successor Report and other files she left behind. Erin left a lot of very helpful information! I've been introduced to several Monroe County personnel. I've also been connecting with extension educators in other counties to learn tips and strategies that will help me in my position. Finally, I'm grateful for my coworkers who have been so helpful as I get settled into my new position!

COMING SOON

- Feb. 12th -Nutrition Coalition meeting
- Feb. 20th -Mental Health Coalition meeting

- Mar. 4th -StrongBodies Training

February 11th, 2020 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel - County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Coon Creek Watershed Meeting – Two meetings were held 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. Great participation and good questions by attendees. NRCS is finalizing scope of watershed study for 6 private engineering firms to bid on. County supervisors and staff will be part of the watershed study moving forward along with the residents of the watershed. (PowerPoint presentation of the dam repair/stabilization)
- Land Stewardship Awards Banquet – 220 people attended the banquet, other than running over on program time it was well received. The Awards Committee made some adjustments for next year's banquet; which include eliminating the guest speaker and pre-draw names for the door prizes.
- Trees Sales Program – 6778 trees sold for **\$6,369.00** to date. (Still waiting for check to come in mail)
- Private Well Testing – Bryce will coordinate the private well water sampling program in Monroe County. Letters sent out to targeted landowners in each township. Working with the Central WI Groundwater Center at Stevens Point.
- Climate Change Task Force – Will be hosting the chair of the State Climate Change Task Force, Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes and his staff on Wednesday, February 12th along with the Land & Water Director.
- Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group – Held their first field trip of the year prior to the February 6th meeting, looked at buck thorn treatment, 35 attended. The Fort McCoy field day is set for June 11th and the fall field day will be in October in the town of Jefferson.
- Conservationist Position – February 4th was Christina Mulder's last day with the LCD, she has moved on to La Crosse County LCD. The position is currently open for applicants until Friday, February 14th.
- Presentations: Attended the Driftless Symposium and presented on the Monroe County Phosphorous trade program with municipalities; presented in Richland Center at the Area Tech Update meeting on the breached dams and participated in a Coon Creek Dam discussion on Wisconsin Public Radio.

Meeting Schedule:

- February 12th – Climate Change Task Force – Host state CCTF members
- February 26th – Staff meeting with DNR
- March 4-6th – Wisconsin Land & Water Conference
- March 11th - Natural Resource & Extension Committee

February 2020 - Land Use Planner's Report

Roxie Anderson

Activities:

- Comprehensive Plans - Summary of activities:
 - Met with Town of Grant Planning Commission on Jan. 14 for working session #5
 - Met with Town of Glendale Planning Commission on Jan. 15 for working session #5
 - Met with Town of Oakdale Planning Commission on Jan. 27 for working session #3
 - Towns are nearing end of review sessions and I will be preparing initial drafts of comprehensive plan updates for review at their March and April meetings. Timeline to adopt comprehensive plans in May is still on schedule pending Town Board and Planning Commission schedules.
- Climate Change Task Force - Summary of activities:
 - Jan. 22 meeting - Several Town and Village board members were invited to attend a discussion to integrate climate change adaptation/mitigation policies and/or practices into local comprehensive plans. Representatives from Town of Portland, Jefferson, Ridgeville and Leon were present. We discussed possible procedural updates and comprehensive plan language to better inform local government land use planning and decision-making. A draft template and procedural charts will be drafted and presented at next meeting. Next meeting date TBD.
 - Feb. 6 meeting with NWS – Met with John Wetenkamp, NWS Hydrologist, to discuss options for setting up flood warning system with NWS and also have NWS provide data management services for real-time weather/stream monitoring system.
- Grant Funding Opportunities – I am working on the following grant applications:
 - WI DNR Municipal Flood Control Grant – I am 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 submitted a grant application titled “Integrating Hazard Mitigation Planning into Monroe County’s Planning Efforts” on January 23. The grant amount requested is \$85,025 over a 20-month period with a 75% match of \$63,768.75 from FEMA and a 25% match of \$21,256.25 of personnel salary and fringe benefits from Monroe County. The grant application was approved by the state for submittal to FEMA and is prioritized for “set-aside” funding which is the funding that goes toward their highest priority applications. Funding decisions will be determined in June 2020.
- Driftless Symposium – Attended 1 day of the Driftless Symposium hosted by Trout Unlimited. Various presentations on stream restoration practices, flooding, climate change, and trout habitat practices were given.

Meetings / Trainings:

- February 11 – Town of Grant working session #6 comprehensive plan update
- February 12 – Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Bi-monthly meeting
- February 12 – Climate Change Task Force
- February 13 – Economic Development Committee meeting
- February 20 – Wisconsin Towns Association meeting
- February 24 – Town of Oakdale working session #4 comprehensive plan update
- February 26 – Town of Glendale working session #6 comprehensive plan update
- March 4 – 6 – WI Land and Water Conference

February 11, 2020-- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**

- Awards Banquet
- Processed 2020 Annual Nonmetallic Mining Fees
- Conner Greeno, 7th grader at Sparta STEM School took first place at the Area Poster Judging in Viroqua. Conner now advances to the state competition in Green Bay March 4-6th.
- Mailed out 250+ Well Sampling Project letters to landowners. Replies due by Feb 14th. Sampling will begin in late February and early March.

Forestry & Parks Report (February) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Sale 149 – New Lyme—contractor is completing the harvest (2/3 completed)
- Pesticide Applicator Certification Exam
- Updates: 15 Year County Forest Plan – Chapter 700
- Boundary Establishment: 1 mile

Parks:

- Removed 1 ash tree and placed 2 trees in Angelo Pond for fish/turtle habitat
- Demolished the privy

Snowmobile:

- Trails were open from Jan 23 – February 2
- Updating the snowmobile trail layers to the GPS Coordinates (recently collected data)
- Completed DNR trail inspection for Cashton – Middle Ridge Trail 10.4 miles new funded trail
- GPS Portland to Melvina trail, Leon to Cashton

Other:

- CWD Task Force Meeting
- WCFA Conference Call, RE: Karner Blue Butterfly Species Habitat Conservation Plan
- Department Head Meeting