



## Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee

Regular Monthly Meeting – March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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

**Committee Members present:** N. VanWychen, A. McCoy, W. Habegger, D. Pierce, K. Raymer (FSA Rep.) and J. Schroeder.

**Not Present:** N/A

**Also Present:** B. Micheel (LC), B. Richardson (LC), R. Anderson (Land Use Planner), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), J. Roll (History), C. Ziegler (Forestry & Parks) M. Mickelson (Forester), M. Modjeski (Warden), T. Townsell (Ft. McCoy), A. Anderson (Health Educator), B. Halfman (UW-EXT), and J. Goede (4H).

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 February 11<sup>th</sup> NR & Extension Meeting:** The committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by D. Pierce, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

**Deke Slayton/Bike Museum:** None

**Local History Room/Wegner Grotto:**

1. **Review February Report:** J. Roll reviewed report. (Report Attached)
2. **Review February Expenditures:** J. Roll reported nothing needed further explanation.

*Motion made by D. Pierce to accept February Report and Expenditures, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

*Kevin Raymer arrived 9:00*

**County Farm Education Funds:** None

**Extension Office Business:**

1. **Review January Expenditures:** C. Saxe reviewed monthly expenditures.
2. **4H & Youth Development Report:** J. Goede reviewed report. (Report Attached)
3. **Agriculture Report:** B. Halfman reviewed report. (Report Attached)
4. **Health & Well-Being/FoodWise Report:** A. Anderson reviewed report. (Report Attached)
5. **AED Update:** C. Saxe reported that Delegation of Financial Budget Authority, is a document for signatory authority for him to sign on behalf of the county.

*Motion made by J. Schroeder to accept February Report and Expenditures, second by W. Habegger.*

*Motion carried 6-0-0*

**NRCS Report:** M. Komiskey reported EQIP deadlines have passed, now trying to sort out new assessment tools and ranking system. The Sparta office has received about 70 applications this year to assess, rank and fund what we can. Veronica will be acting District Conservationist in Altoona for about 4 months, starting on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. There will not be a replacement for her during this time. The NRCS staff appreciate the assistance we receive from the LCD and FSA, especially in these crazy years with lots of changes.

**Fort McCoy Update:** T. Townsell reported The Army is taking precautionary measures to protect the health of the force and maintain operational readiness. We will continue to evaluate current day-to-day operations to ensure the safety of all of our Soldiers, family members and civilian personnel, as well as those who come to Fort McCoy to train and visit. At this time, Fort McCoy has no confirmed the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases. We encourage all personnel to follow the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). The community can take routine steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Things like washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoiding contact with those who have been sick, going to the doctor when you feel ill, and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces can help prevent cases.

**Wildlife Abatement Program:** None

**Land Conservation Department:**

1. **Review January Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed monthly expenditures.
2. **County Conservator Report:** B. Micheel reviewed report. (Report Attached)
  - **Climate Change Task Force Resolution – Establish Non Lapsing Donation Account – Review/Approve:**

*Motion made by D.Pierce to accept CCTF Non Lapsing Donation Account second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 6-0-0*

- **School Woods Resolution & Amended Agreement – Review/Approve:**

*Motion made by A. McCoy to accept School Woods Resloution & Amended Agreement second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 6-0-0*

3. **Soil & Water Conservator 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 that they have the Spring Hearings and Conservation Congress meetings on April 13<sup>th</sup> at Meadow View school in Sparta starting at 7:00 p.m. Learn to turkey hunt coming up, one on the western side and one on the eastern side.
2. **Forestry:** M. Mickelson reported fire season is upon us. 16 new “Check Before You Burn” signs out on landscape now in DNR protected areas. Reminder that if you live in a permitted area, obtain your free burn permit at ranger station, online at WDNR or by the hotline number. Check burn regulations each day you intend to burn. Regulations are updated daily at 11 a.m. based on fire WX for day. Basic prediction we’re seeing is warmer than previous year, so pertinent to follow burn regulations/responsible burn. Wrapping up local Fire department trainings for forest fires. New this year Monroe County dispatch received training on permit system.
3. **Managed Forest Law Program:** None

**Forestry & Parks:**

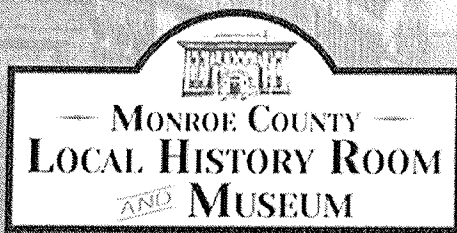
1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler reported Delaney forest products completed timber sale 149 in New Lyme before road bands were put on. Al and he completed about 2 miles of boundary work last month and up to 3.75 miles for the year. Cleaned up and burned more brush over at Angelo, all the Ash trees are now down and mostly cleaned up. Had stumps ground by the High Way Department, there is more mess to clean up. Updating snowmobile trail Layer, almost every mile of trail has GPS data in the County (300 miles). (Report Attached)
2. **Discussed Angelo Wayside Improvements:** C. Ziegler reported that they took down the restroom out at Wayside. A concerned citizen would like a new restroom at Angelo. Would like to get a dusk till dawn security light in the parking lot. RAPP group in Angelo has money that was ear marked for dredging the pond. They may be interested in paying for half of a new privy. Committee directed Chad to bring back more information next month.
3. **Review Forestry & Parks January Expenditures:** Reviewed monthly expenditures.

*Motion made by A. McCoy to Adjourn second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 6-0-0*

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

*Recorder: Arin Gowan*



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

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

- Prepared end of year financial report for LHR, listing total income and expenses and assigning those transactions to budget categories
- Promoted History-Live presentation, "Lost Voices of Mariel," and hosted said program – 76 in attendance
- Orchestrated the reproduction of borrowed elements to the "Lost Voices of Mariel" exhibit so that it can stay on view through October 2020. This involved obtaining permissions for reproducing images and ordering identical photo frames
- Processed new donations to LHR including assigning accession numbers, researching history of said items, and locating a storage space for each
- Generated much needed storage space in the library and the archives storeroom by removing some materials, shifting collections around, and transferring some collections to our off-site storage facility
- Began organizing and planning for biennial Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon scheduled for March 19
- Promoted next two "History Live" public programs as they fall in the same week of March
- Coordinated with county historical groups requesting general information about their sites and photographs so that I can update the "Guide to Monroe County Museums" brochure for the Economic Development and Tourism Committee.

**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 Walterman: 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 Koonmen: 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

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## Joshua L. Goede

### Shooting Sports

The committee feels Archery and Air Rifle have been successful despite the struggles this year. The committee met on Monday, March 9, to discuss the powder weapon season.

### Agents 4 Change w/Monroe County Safe Community Coalition

Agents 4 Change will hold the first Round Table Discussion in Cashton on March 18<sup>th</sup> over the high school lunch hour. 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. The Agent is very excited as this information could have many uses. The Agent also addressed the Brookwood Jr. High Wellness Day. He discussed the reality of Marijuana use. The next thing that needs to be planned is presentation in Sparta.

### Choose Health: Food, Fitness, Fun

Brookwood High School has teamed up PYD to have the CHFFF Curriculum taught in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The Highschool Ag Leadership Class will be trained as facilitators. They will then stand as the teachers for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. The curriculum focuses on cutting out high sugar drinks, eating fiber, reading nutrition panels, eating out healthily, and making sure to eat breakfast.

### VIP

There was one adult at the Feb 1 VIP Training. There were 4 adults at the February, 12 VIP Training. Approximately a dozen potential volunteers need to receive the training. There will be VIP Training on March 19. We will assess how many volunteers still need training after this session. This will be the last session scheduled. In talking to leaders, we are thinking we may set a day in Nov. or Dec for each club to engage the leaders that they have joining.

### Camps

The Agent has been working on summer camps with the other Area 13 4-H Staff. 3-6 Grade Summer camp will be July 23-25. This is the week before County Fair so it will be hard to tell how many MOCO youth will attend. The annual county Outpost Camp will happen again. It is scheduled for July 8 & 9 at Wildcat Mt. State Park in

Ontario. LaCrosse County will be invited again. There should be a good attendance.

### 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. The registration for stage performances has closed and we have over 30 youth performing, some more than once. We are looking at boosting community attendance

### 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. We have had a change in leadership. There is now a committee of five individuals leading the different aspects of the show. The committee is also working on adding educational stations to the show for the youth not showing all day.

### Club Visits

The Agent has made 6 club visits and 4 club visioning sessions so far this program year. He plans to visit all clubs by June. He also hopes to hold club visioning sessions with all clubs as well. The visioning sessions are a discussion with leadership about what they see as the club's strengths, weaknesses, triumphs of the past and goals for the future. The discussions so far have been positive and uplifting. I think they have allowed the leaders to see the positive parts of leading a 4-H club.

### STEAM Project

The Agent has been working with the Cashton Library to develop Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math programs. The library has agreed to be a test site to develop the program that will then be taken to the other county libraries, especially the rural village libraries.

## Continuing Programs

### • Jr. Leaders

Jr. Leaders will be meeting in April to plan the Ice Cream stand and summer trip.

### COMING SOON

- March 21, Festival of Arts, Meadowview Intermediate School, Sparta
- April 18, 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fur, Fin, & Feather Show, Barney Center, Sparta

## April Anderson

### **Monroe County Nutrition Coalition**

I met with Stephanie Rahr at Couleecap. I gave her a copy of “A Food Safety Guide to Reducing Food Waste: Distributing and Using Shelf Stable Donated Products” from Barb Ingham, a food safety specialist at UW-Madison. I shared recipes with Stephanie for foods that are not typically well known so people utilizing the pantry have ideas for how to use them. Once I complete my FoodWise training I plan to organize food demonstrations at food pantries as well.

I met with Kayleigh Day from the Health Department. I asked her about programming, partnerships, and the county’s main issues. I shared that I am starting a “Health Matters” column in the newspaper. I will email Kayleigh my topic ideas to ensure there isn’t overlap with the health departments articles.

I also met with Danielle Krozel from United Way’s Great Rivers Hub. This organization focuses on helping prediabetics and people with type 2 diabetes through affordable life-style changes. I will be sharing Strong Bodies session information with Danielle so interested clients may sign up.

I will be providing healthy eating and physical activity information at the Men’s Health Night in Tomah on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Monroe County Mental Health Coalition**

I attended my first meeting on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. We discussed May being mental health month. Various activities such as a Mental Wellness Day and a brunch and learn are being

organized. We also talked about the county’s mental health resource guide. I suggested that the guide be provided in Spanish and that this resource be offered at libraries.

### **StrongBodies**

On March 4<sup>th</sup> I participated in Strong Bodies training in Stevens Point. I’m planning to lead a class soon with the help of Nancy, one of our volunteer leaders.

### **FoodWise**

On February 12<sup>th</sup> I observed Kari Johnson complete two FoodWise lessons with third grade students at Northside Elementary. It was very helpful to see what the nutrition lessons look like! I have continued to work through the online course “FoodWise: Healthy Choices, Healthy Lives”. I’m also seeking my program manager’s input on a news release about me being the first FoodWise coordinator for Monroe County.

### **HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living)**

My program manager, Angie Flickinger, and I had a meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss my progress so far. She will be meeting with me on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> to get me started on my plan of work.

### **HCE (Home and Community Education)**

I compiled the February newsletter with Vicky’s help. I attended an HCE meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We discussed Sojourners Journey, an organization that helps with homelessness and substance abuse. I will be providing information about literacy grants they can apply for at the next meeting to fund their Bookworms program.

### **COMING SOON**

- Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>- Nutrition Coalition meeting
- Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>- FoodWise mentor meeting (Adams County Extension office)
- Mar. 17<sup>th</sup>- Monroe County Planning Council meeting
- Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>- Mental Health Coalition meeting
- Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>-Men’s Health Night (Cranberry Country Lodge in Tomah)

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**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

**Agriculture Extension Highlights Update February 12, 2020 through March 10, 2020**

The Private Pesticide Applicator Training and Testing Workshops have been completed for the year. Three of them were held in February in the county. We have had some people take the self study option at the office and I expect more to do that this spring. The certifications are good for 5 years.

The Ag Agent attended the Wisconsin Cattlemen's Winter Conference on February 21<sup>st</sup> where the educational program was a combined effort with UW Extension to hold the annual bovine well being conference. Speakers for the conference included the National Director of the Beef Quality Assurance Program, researchers from Texas A&M, University of Guelph, Iowa State, U of Minn, and UW- Madison and the V.P. of protein procurement and innovation of Wendy's. The National Director of BQA said that Wisconsin's BQA program is a roll model program with the Beef Council partnering with UW Extension to deliver research based unbiased information to the farmers. The Ag Agent is one of the co-directors for the Wisconsin BQA program.

UW Cattle Feeder's Clinics were held at 8 locations from Feb 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. Topics addressed included what was learned so far after the building collapses due to snow load in 2018-19, a market outlook for 2020, and traits that buyers look for in fed cattle. The Bangor location had 103 participants attend the workshop. Evaluation data for the workshop is very positive. 55 participants turned in evaluations at Bangor, and 38 of them indicated they intended to make changes based on what they learned. 78% of respondents indicated they had attended cattle feeders workshops in the past and 75% indicated they had made changes on their farms from what they learned in the past. 41 % of respondents indicated the information they learned reassured them they were on the right track.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Hops Growers Conference was held in New Glarus on Feb 29<sup>th</sup>. The data from the hops fertilizer trials was presented, and we have been making progress with the quality of the data we have been able to collect. There were approximately 60 people in attendance at the workshop, including 4 from Monroe County. The participants have changed over the past 11 years from those interested but not growing to now the majority are the serious growers.

**Upcoming Events-**

March 11-12 UW Ag Institute In-service

March 13 Monroe County DHIA Banquet

March 16 Advanced Weed Management Conference for Farmers- Bangor

March 23-24 I-29 Dairy Beef Conference

March 26<sup>th</sup> Farm Transition Workshop

March 27<sup>th</sup> Ag Lenders Round Table- Cashton

April 2<sup>nd</sup> Dairy Reproduction workshop- Westby

# March 10th, 2020 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel - County Conservationist

## LCD Business:

- Trees Sales Program – To date: 8,394 trees sold for **\$8,170**.
- Kastberg Farm (Tri-Creek) – CREP/CRP applications submitted for portions along the stream and the field on the south side of Moore Creek. Advertisement will go out this week for bids on the remaining 14.3 acres of cropland. Need to amend the original CREP account developed at the county farm to include the Tri-Creek property.
- Farmland Preservation Program – A new signup bonus (\$2,000) was announced last week that is being offered to farmers who sign-up for the FLP in the two Monroe County AEA's. This is a state DATCP trial to stimulate participation in the FLP program. (Handout)
- Climate Change Task Force – Hosted Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes and his staff on February 12<sup>th</sup> along with the Land & Water Director – Matt Krueger. Toured one PL566 structure and stream bank erosion prior to the CCTF meeting. Discussed state's CCTF role and plan for the upcoming year. Developing a donation account that will be used to fund implementation of CCTF objectives.
- Soil & Water Conservationist Position – Interviewed three people on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and offered the position. Confirmation should be later today with a planned start date in early April.
- Presentations: At the Land & Water Conference on Monroe Counties Climate Change Task Force along with CWD Task Force initiatives.

## Meeting Schedule:

- March 11<sup>th</sup> – Climate Change Task Force
- March 12<sup>th</sup> – Tri-Creek Watershed Planning meeting
- March 16<sup>th</sup> – Zoning & Wilton Village Board meeting
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – Sparta Garden Club
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – Coon Creek Watershed Meeting
- March 24<sup>th</sup> – Standards Oversight Council – NRCS Stream Restoration
- March 26<sup>th</sup> – Lake Tomah Committee
- March 31<sup>st</sup> – County Deer Advisory Council
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lake Association Conference
- April 14<sup>th</sup> - Natural Resource & Extension Committee/DATCP meeting



## Land Use Planner Report - February 2020

### Comprehensive Plan Activities:

- Met with Town of Grant for working session #6 on February 11th.
- Meetings with Towns of Oakdale and Glendale were cancelled and rescheduled due to illness.

### Climate Change Task Force:

- February 12th meeting - Presented update on establishing real-time weather and stream monitoring system. Provided local, state, and regional options along with updated cost estimates based on information provided from Iowa Flood Center and National Weather Service.

### WI DNR Municipal Flood Control Grant Program:

- Preparing grant application for voluntary buyout properties that were submitted for a FEMA grant in 2019. Grant funding from the MFC program will help match the funding provided by FEMA.
- The grant funding is for property acquisition and structure removal for properties that are within the 100-yr floodplain and have been substantially damaged by flooding. Three applications will be submitted for properties located within the Towns of Sparta, Leon and Portland.
- I attended Town Board meetings (Feb. 4 and 12) to present information and answer questions about the MFC program and request Town Boards to adopt resolutions to apply for grant program. All three Towns are willing to allow County to submit applications on their behalf and are also interested in acquiring and maintaining properties as open space.

### WI DOT Multimodal Local Supplement Grant

- On March 4, grant awards were announced, over 1600 applications were received state-wide and 152 communities were selected to receive funding (84 Towns, 34 Cities and Villages, and 34 Counties). Two Towns in Monroe County (16 Town applications were submitted) were selected for funding (Towns of Portland and Jefferson).
- The project application I prepared and submitted for the Town of Portland's Oakland Rd. bridge replacement was awarded \$327,263.29 in grant funding.

### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Resilient Communities Grant

- Submitted pre-proposal grant application titled "Engaging Partnerships through the Monroe County Climate Change Task Force to Establish a Real-Time Weather and Stream Monitoring and Flood Warning System". The grant funding request is for \$200,000 over a 2-year project period and requires a 1:1 match.

### Wisconsin Land+Water Association Annual Conference March 4th - 6th

### Upcoming Meetings:

- March 11th - Climate Change Task Force
- March 12th - Tri-Creek Land Use Plan Committee
- March 23rd - Town of Oakdale Working Session #4
- March 24th - Town of Glendale Working Session #6

## **March 10, 2020-- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report**

### **Bryce Richardson**

- **Activities**

- County Well Sampling began. 10 Samples in Little Falls Twp.
- Continuing to sample 3-5 Twps per week.
- Construction surveys and designs
- Attended Wisconsin Land and Water Conference.

## Forestry & Parks Report (March) – Ziegler

### Forestry:

- Sale 149 – New Lyme—harvest/hauling complete
- Boundary Work .75 miles, Town of Lincoln
- Boundary Establishment: 1 mile

### Parks:

- Cleaned up/burned brush

### Snowmobile:

- Updating the snowmobile trail layers to the GPS Coordinates (recently collected data)
- Approving SNARS entries

### Other:

- Highway Dept. regarding a management plan for land around dog pound
- WCFA Quarterly Conference Call
- Department Head Meeting
- DNR meeting regarding tree planting season