Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee



Regular Monthly Meeting – May 13th, 2020 Monroe County - Board Assembly Room –Sparta, WI

Committee Members present: N. VanWychen, D. Pierce, R. Luethe, R. Sherwood, and K. Raymer (FSA

Rep.).

Not Present: J. Schmitz

Also Present: B. Micheel (LC), C. Ziegler (Forestry & Parks)

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.

Election of Vice Chair: Dave Peirce

A motion was made to elect Dave Peirce as Vice Chair presented by R. Luethe, second by R. Sherwood.

Motion carried 5-0-1.

Meeting schedule, location and timing for 2020: 2nd Wednesday of every month at 8:30 at the County

Board Assembly Room. Until further notice.

Public Comment Period: None

Approve Minutes from the March 10th NR & Extension Meeting: The committee reviewed the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by D. Pierce, second by R. Luethe. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: (Report Attached)

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto:

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

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept April Report and Expenditures, second by R. Luethe. Motion carried 5-0-1.

County Farm Education Funds: None

Extension Office Business:

- 1. Review April Expenditures: N/A
- 2. 4H & Youth Development Report: (Report Attached)
- 3. **Agriculture Report**: (Report Attached)
- 4. **Health & Well-Being/FoodWise Report:** (Report Attached)
- 5. **AED Update**: None

NRCS Report: (Report Attached)

Fort McCoy Update: None

Land Conservation Department:

- 1. Review April Expenditures: B. Micheel reviewed monthly expenditures.
- 2. Review Land Conservation Department Duties: B. Micheel reviewed department duties.

- 3. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel reviewed report. (Report Attached)
 - Budget Adjustment (Compeer) Review/Approve:

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept Budget Adjustment for Compeer second by R. Sherwood. Motion carried 5-0-1

• Hawk High Dairy LLC Cropland Lease 14.3 acres – Review/Approve:

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept Hawk High Diary LLC lease agreement second by R. Luethe. Motion carried 5-0-1

- Climate Change Task Force Resolution Establish Non Lapsing Donation Account Review
 B. Micheel reviewed.
- School Woods Resolution & Amended Agreement Review B. Michael reviewed.
- 4. Soil & Water Conservationist Report: (Report Attached)
- 5. Land Use Planner Report: (Report Attached)

DNR Forestry Reports:

- 1. Warden: None
- 2. Forestry: (Report Attached)
- 3. Managed Forest Law Program: None

Forestry & Parks:

- Forestry & Park Updates: C. Ziegler reported forestry is status quo. Loggers can still be logging. Seven fire rings have been stolen along with a kayak rack and an electrical pedestal during the off season at McMullen Park. Park revenue is down \$16,000, hoping to break even at the end of the year. Camping begins Friday May 15th, at 8 a.m... Giving out COVID – 19 rule handouts for camping. (Report Attached)
- 2. Review Forestry & Parks April Expenditures: Reviewed monthly expenditures.
- 3. Timber Sale Bids Review/Approve:

Motion made by R. Luethe to accept the high bid for all five timber sales second by R. Sherwood. Motion carried 5-0-1

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held, Wednesday June 10th, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Board Assembly Room in Sparta.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Recorder: Arin Gowan



DEKE SLAYTON MEMORIAL SPACE & BICYCLE MUSEUM APRIL REPORT

- Museum has been closed since mid-March so I have been working from home
- Because Butterfest is canceled so is the bike decorating contest we have then
- We have decided to cancel our annual pig roast fundraiser
- Junior space camp scheduled for June 22- 26 is full, we'll be making an official decision the beginning of June as to if we can have it or not



Bringing history to life since 1976.

LHR Director / County Historian's Report, April 2020

Submitted by Jarrod Roll

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

- Emailed multiple updates to volunteers with information about what staff has been working on and the status of the Museum Building being closed
- Fulfilled customer orders for research materials and photographs both via computer and through the mail
- Participated in annual performance appraisal with County Administrator
- Created a flyer advertising our exhibit needs for the 1960s Christmas exhibit and mass emailed to our constituents
- Wrote and sent out a press release advertising our exhibit needs for the 1960s Christmas exhibit; communicated with people offering items for said exhibit
- Consulted with a volunteer about paint color for research library (so that we have that decision made once I am allowed back in the building
- Removed Fort McCoy artifacts from Cuban refugee exhibit and scanned them for future reproduction; returned said items to Fort McCoy at their request
- Updated "Partners & Links" page on MCLHR.org
- Selected and provided photos of History Room and Grotto activities to the Sparta Chamber of Commerce for a promotion they are doing
- Calculated 2019 Volunteer hours contributed; created 2019 Annual Usage Stats sign to place at LHR
- Contacted key county educators to discuss possible interest in and feasibility of LHR video recorded programming; researched video editing software
- Reviewed the 3-D slide viewer collection and selected 30 images to replace those currently on display; started typing up descriptions of the thirty 3-D slideviews and researching any with insufficient information
- Created first of a series of educational videos about Monroe County men in the Civil War for use by county teachers. This process included: learning video editing software, researching the topic of Civil War uniforms, writing video script, shooting video footage, locating historic photographs in the LHR collection and in public domain, editing everything into a video, teleconferencing with a Sparta teacher; promoted video by sending link to teachers
- Completed the "New Normal" Operations Plan at the request of the County Administrator
- Began creating a second Civil War educational video by researching the topic of Civil War small arms and combat; collected images and video footage to use in the video; wrote script for Civil War video about small arms and combat
- Paid bills through the MUNIS system



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Agriculture Extension Agent: Bill Halfman

Agriculture Program Highlights March 11, 2020 through May 13, 2020

UW Extension was directed to work from home beginning March 18th. All face to face workshops and one on one visits have been suspended until further notice.

That said, the Ag Agent has been responding to people via phone calls, e-mails and press releases to help address various needs.

Common questions that have been addressed are: related to private pesticide applicator certification, a lot of farm land rental questions, hay and forage establishment, fertilizer, ag limestone, various lawn and garden questions, livestock building ventilation, hay prices, cash flow questions. The Ag Agent helped two ag loan officers on some enterprise budget projections.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture has made some temporary changes. Certifications that expired after January 31, 2020 an extension through the end of October, 2020. For anyone needing a new certification or had an expired one prior to January 31, there was an online option to get them a temporary certified through the end of October.

The Ag Agent has done two television interviews, Channel 19, and Channel 8, and a radio interview with Wisconsin Public Radio on topics related to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on farmers in the area over the past two months. They have been conducted via telephone or web conference.

To further help address the COVID-19 epidemic that Ag Agent has been part of a team of agents that have developed resources on the following beef related topics:

- Are you worried about COVID-19 Transmission to and from animals?
- Fed Cattle Impacts due to COVID-19
- My ethanol co-product supply is low or gone. What other protein sources can I feed my cattle?
- Marketing cull cows during the COVID-19 pandemic (both beef and dairy versions)
- Continued COVID-19 Impacts on the Cattle Market
- Considerations for slowing feedlot cattle growth due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Several of these have been utilized by both state and national industry media.



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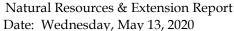
The Ag Agent has also worked with the Monroe County UW Extension Administrative Assistant to post current materials to the webpage and new facebook page for the non-4-H programs in the office.

Two new spreadsheets were completed by the ag agent and co-workers Grant and St. Croix Counties and have been released. One of them is a Stocker Cattle Closeout Calculator and the other one is a Beef Replacement Heifer cost calculator. The Ag Agent also worked with the Ag Agents in Buffalo and Chippewa counties to revise and update a crops enterprise budget. We will be doing a major rebuild of the crops budgets later this year.

The Ag Agents in Vernon, La Crosse and Monroe county will be hosting a series of webinars as part of a statewide Heart of the Farm effort.

Special approval has been obtained to continue the hops fertilizer trial and the corn nitrogen trials this year, but rigid protocols are in place to ensure human biosecurity. When the Ag Agent goes to the sites to apply treatments, no one else can assist and the Ag Agent is the only one at the site during that time, until restrictions lift.

At this time we are in "wait and see" status for scheduling field days and workshops including tractor safety.



Joshua L. Goede

Changing

Since my report in March much has changed. Virtually everything on that report was canceled or changed to a virtual format. Much of my time at the end of March and in April was spent keeping our 4-H families informed about changes and trying to help them deal with the current stresses of life. We have been working as an Area 13 team on many projects and have been supporting each other's programs as we have had to change so many things quickly. These are things we created or retooled to meet the needs of our Monroe County 4-Hers:

4-H Story Time

Vernon County Educator Emery Bork and I worked four weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays to produce live story times where older 4-Hers would lead fun camp songs before other Jr. Leaders would read a story. We averaged about 40 families tuning in for the broadcast over Facebook. We are not able to archive these sessions because of copyright restrictions.

Virtual Talent Shows

In Area 13 (Crawford, LaCrosse, Monroe, Richland, & Vernon) four counties had to cancel or postpone their performing arts festivals, Monroe included. We had also heard that residents in care facilities were very restricted so we reached out to nursing homes and other facilities to see if they could tune in digitally to see 4-Hers perform. Many were able to set stuff up Rolling Hills was able to broadcast into resident rooms. Morrow Home showed recordings the residents. The VA watched the recordings in small groups. There has been many positive comments from both the performers and the facilities.

Area 13 Photo Expo

As we thought about things that could be done digitally we looked to photography as most photography is now digital. We built a collection tool for all Area 13 4-Hers to upload photos in different categories. We have them in a public display that you can link to from our Monroe County Extension Webpage. We will be having a virtual judge's conference on Thursday, May 14 with a photo expert to talk to the kids about strengths and weaknesses in the show. The Judge will also pick some Judge's Favorites.

Monroe County 4-H 2021 Calendar

We started the 2021 Calendar with a photo contest. There are 60 photos divided into seasons on the Monroe County Wisconsin 4-H Facebook Page. We are running the voting through five o'clock on Friday, May 15. Those photos receiving the most votes will make it into the calendar.

VIP

The Agent moved the March VIP to ZOOM and trained 5 people. The Agent has since been trained on VIP modification to offer VIP over ZOOM as a permanent option. Area 13 Educators are working on a plan where we may work together to offer the ZOOM VIP training

Camps

The Are 13 Summer Camp at Upham Woods has been canceled. However, Area 13 youth can still attend. Outpost Camp. It is still on the books and will hopefully be allowed to happen. It is scheduled for July 8 & 9 at Wildcat Mt. State Park in Ontario. All Area 13 youth are invited. There should be a good attendance.

Shooting Sports

The final Fair shoots were canceled. The committee has not made a final plan whether to move forward with Powder Sports or not this summer.

Agents 4 Change w/Monroe County Safe Community Coalition

Both the Round Table and the Norwalk, Ontario, Wilton presentations were canceled when schools closed.

Choose Health: Food. Fitness. Fun

The Brookwood FFA Members were trained but the 4th grade never received the lessons due to the school closures.

Festival of Arts

Was postponed to May 16, then was canceled altogether when Safer @ Home was extended.

Fur, Fin, & Feather

Was canceled.

Club Visits

Clubs are not allowed to meet in person right now so the club visits would not be an accurate picture of what is happening in the clubs. There have been a few clubs that have met virtually and their meetings were well attended. They were able to do some decision making. You may have seen new about the Clovers & Cranberries Club in Warrens and Valle Ville in Rural Tomah/Wilton area doing milk donation to the school lunch programs. Our clubs are still doing great things.

STEAM @ The Library Project

This project is being adapted digitally and moving to summer programing in conjunction with the libraries. The Cashton Librarian has been helping to see what this could look like.



April Anderson

Monroe County Nutrition Coalition

After our March meeting I met with Patricia Hagen, the WIC Coordinator/Nutritionist for Monroe County. We learned about each other's positions and we discussed ways we can collaborate in the future (e.g. grocery store tours). Our April meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for May 13th and as of right now it has not been cancelled.

Monroe County Mental Health Coalition

The March and April meetings were held virtually. We have been planning activities and gathering resources in preparation for Mental Health Month. The theme this year is "Tools to Thrive". While face to face activities have been cancelled virtual activities, such as social media posts and videos will still take place. Members reached out to dignitaries to create a short video showing their support for Mental Health month. I reached out to Senator Patrick Testin and I recently received his video.

StrongBodies

As of April 14th, StrongBodies classes are being offered virtually on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. for participants who are currently registered in the program. According to Angela Flickinger, the state representative of StrongBodies, around twenty of our participants are enrolled for the virtual classes. I reached out to our volunteer leaders to inform them of the requirements to be volunteers through UW-Madison. Recently I joined a StrongBodies Health & Nutrition work group. This group will work to strengthen the health and nutrition education lessons that can supplement this program.

FoodWise

On March 13th, I met with my mentor, Angela DeSmith at the Adams County Extension office. I learned more about FoodWlse resources, where to find them, and programming such as grocery store tours. While I was there, I also met other FoodWlse educators. I wrote a news release for the

newspaper about me being the first FoodWIse Coordinator for Monroe County. I completed a needs assessment and program planning for FY21. I am a member of the Color Me Healthy curriculum work group. We are creating best practices for utilizing this curriculum. I will be using this curriculum with Head Start students. I am also a member of the Greener FoodWIse group. We are working to promote more environmentally friendly practices in our programming. I also continue to work through the online course "FoodWIse: Healthy Choices, Healthy Lives".

HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living)

I participated in a 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge, which focused on food inequities, during the month of April. I am a member of the Harvest of the Month work group. We are preparing ready-to-use materials, tools, and resources for this program, which promotes eating more locally grown fruits and vegetables. I am also a member of the Behavioral Health work group. We are working to increase self-care and well-being and reduce mental health and substance use disorders. Many mental health, physical activity, and other health & well-being resources have been added to our extension website.

Onboarding

As a new Extension colleague, I will participate in six months of training. This training began on March 24th. So far, I have learned about connecting to stakeholders and inclusion, program development, connecting to state resources, and mapping.

Health Matters Newspaper Column

In response to Covid-19 I have provided trustworthy information on health & wellness, food security, mental health, childcare, education, and financial assistance to ensure people have access to needed resources.

April Anderson

HCE (Home and Community Education)

HCE leadership decided not to send out a March newsletter. I compiled and provided content for almost half of the April newsletter and Vicky, our administrative assistant, mailed them out.

COMING SOON

- o May 13th- Nutrition Coalition meeting
- o May 21st -Mental Health Coalition meeting

Professional Development

- -Building a Toolbox: Practical, Research-Based Applications to Engage Learners
- -Motivational Interviewing
- -Inclusive Practices through a Disability Lens
- -Policy, Systems & Environment (PSE) Cornell Course
- -Tech training (Zoom, Outlook, Microsoft Teams)

May 13, 2020 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel - County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- <u>COVID-19</u> The Ag Service Center which is shared with our federal partners (NRCS/FSA) has been closed for public access since the beginning of the pandemic. Still conducting field work and meeting landowners outside of the office. Plan to implement one access/counter point for the public when the "Safer at Home" rule is lifted.
- <u>Trees Sales Program</u> 115 landowners purchased 10,800 trees & shrubs for \$10,576. Implemented drive-up service for picking up trees on April 17th.
- <u>Kastberg Farm (Tri</u>-Creek) CREP/CRP applications were accepted by the Farm Service Agency for portions along the stream and the field on the south side of Moore Creek. Only one bid received on 14.3 acres of cropland. Need to amend the original CREP account developed at the county farm to include the Tri-Creek property. Last week staff treated garlic mustard in area planned for timber harvest in 2020/2021.
- <u>Farmland Preservation Program (FLP) The new signup bonus (\$2,000) being offered to</u> farmers who sign-up for the FLP in the two Monroe County AEA's is working. This is a state DATCP trial to stimulate participation in the FLP program. (Handout) 7 applications have been submitted to DATCP for developing agreements with more on the way. Applied for another \$40,000 in 2021 for continuing the signup bonus.
- <u>Climate Change Task Force</u> Participating in the state's CCTF meeting on May 21st. Developing a donation account that will be used to fund implementation of CCTF objectives. A grant received through Fishers and Farmers will put funds into weather monitoring equipment. Seeking additional grants for deploying additional weather stations in the Kickapoo River & Little La Crosse River Watersheds.
- New Hire Nick Smetana was hired on April 6th to replace Christina Mulder for the Soil & Water Conservationist position.
- NRCS Stream Restoration Standards Team Serve as a team member to update the 4 practice standards that are involved in stream restoration work. Monthly meetings held through teleconferencing utilizing Microsoft teams.
- Coon Creek Watershed Plan A private firm has been selected and contract development with NRCS will happen this month. The firm will have 18-24 months to complete the study. UW-Madison Graduate Class has incorporated the Coon Creek Watershed as part of their study. They are looking into land use changes, weather patterns and potential outcomes for mitigating intense rain events as a result of climate change. Results expected by spring of 2021.
- <u>County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC)</u> Monroe County completed the spring meetings and set the season structure and tag allotment for 2020 deer hunting season. Tags available and hunting opportunities will be the same as 2019 accept for increase in bonus tags for the forested zone (NE corner) in Monroe County.

Meeting Schedule:

- May 20th Finance & County Board
- May 21st State Climate Change Task Force
- June 1-5th Monroe County Climate Change Task Force
- June 9th Norwalk Village Board Meeting
- June 8-12th Natural Resource & Extension Committee meeting

May 2020 - Land Use Planner's Report

Roxie Anderson

Activities:

- <u>Isolation Facility Project</u> Work with Sherriff's Department, Public Health Department, and Emergency Management Coordinator to manage project to establish isolation / quarantine facility for Monroe County. I spent two full weeks April 6 April 17 in Sheriff's Department working full-time on project and participating in daily briefings. I returned to my projects part-time on April 20.
- Comprehensive Plans Meetings with Town Boards have been put on hold during the Safer at Home order. I have made progress on preparing initial draft of Town of Glendale's Comprehensive Plan Update in Microsoft Publisher. I will use Glendale's Plan as a template for Town of Grant and Town of Oakdale. Town of Little Falls has completed their draft and have submitted to me for review and comment. I plan on scheduling meetings for June. Timeline to adopt plans will need to be re-evaluated.
- Grant Funding Opportunities I am working on the following grant applications:
 - O WI DNR Municipal Flood Control Grant Grant applications for the Towns of Sparta, Leon, and Portland were submitted on March 15. The grant funding is for property acquisition and structure removal for voluntary buy-out properties within the 100-year floodplain or have been substantially damaged by flooding. Grant award announcements will be made in September.
 - <u>Fishers and Farmers Partnership Grant</u> I submitted a grant application titled "Establish Real-Time Weather Monitoring Stations to Improve Success of Conservation Practices in Flood-Prone Areas" in October 2019. Bob and I were interviewed by the selection committee and were ranked below top three applicants with possible funding available depending on funding amount. We were recently notified by the grant program manager, Heidi Keuler, that the selection committee wants to fund our project proposal and the initial amount offered is \$38,298. I have submitted a revised project proposal and budget. Funding for this project proposal will go toward establishment of real-time precipitation and stream level monitoring stations, which will also fulfill one of the goals of the Climate Change Task Force.
 - Recreational Trails Program and Land and Water Conservation Fund Program Reviewed grant requirements for potential trail projects in Tri-Creek and Village of Wilton. Determined that projects are not yet eligible for funding. Received further confirmation and recommendation from grant program coordinator.

May 12, 2020 -- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Bryce Richardson

Activities

- Construction Surveys and Designs
- Began construction on a waste storage abandonment
- Increased financial assurance received from Smart Sand. \$\$ increased from \$900,000 to \$1,660,000 to better reflect costs of reclamation.

Nick Smetana

Activities

- Construction Surveys (4 streambanks and 2 waterways) and Completed Design for streambank restoration on the Little La Crosse River – 650' Riprap, 580' Field Shaping, 7 Lunkers, and 2 Weirs, sent out bid packets & working on permits
- Staked Boundaries and Monumentation points for 15 year and perpetual CREP Easements
- Seeding guidance for CREP Easements
- Assisted with annual tree sale
- Marked emergency spillway at Tri-Creek Dam
- o Garlic Mustard treatment on the Tri-Creek Property

Good Afternoon All,

I'm excited to officially be a part of the Monroe County LCD team.

My Background

I grew up in nearby La Crosse and attended the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point where I obtained a degree in Wildlife in 2015. Shortly after graduation, I bolted across the river to Minnesota where I've spent the past 5 years working on a pheasant nest site selection/brood survival study, MN CREP (wetland restorations), CRP, and shoreline/stream bank restorations. During my free time I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family and friends, primarily hunting and fishing. I'm very grateful to be able to come back to the Driftless Area and work on the natural resources that provided me so many opportunities throughout the years.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you!



DNR Forestry

April Report Megan Mickelson / Clint Gilman

- Tree orders through the state have been triaged, with the majority of orders being cancelled for the spring. The state was not able to hire their additional support staff to supplement the crews for tree packaging/delivery. Orders that were placed are eligible to be placed again for next spring, or have funds returned to them.
- Burning permits have been suspended and will continue until further notice for DNR Protected Areas. Cooking and warming fires are still allowed, however strongly discouraged. Please be mindful of where you live and burn so you're SURE you're following the correct regulations. Maps can be found on the DNR website with the keywords "burn permit."
- A major fire broke out north of Necedah on April 18th, caused by debris burning. The fire ran through grass and timber regeneration, but crews were able to catch it once it hit a lowland area. Megan served as the Left Group Supervisor on the fire, overseeing several DNR heavy units (dozers with plows) and Single Engine Air Tanker retardant drops. The fire immediately threatened 5 structures, but none of them sustained damage. Approximately 47 residences (including her own!) were evacuated to the Necedah Town Hall. No injuries occurred. The fire ultimately burned 234 acres. Reminder: Even with permits suspended, people are still out burning. Campfires are legal, but are discouraged, and please be mindful of other sources of potential sparks: grills, equipment, dragging chains, mowing during hot/dry conditions, etc. We're now getting into the time where the pine becomes more flammable and volatile, so suppression of fires will be more complex. Contact Megan with any questions.

DNR Forestry

Forestry & Parks Report (April/May) - Ziegler

Forestry:

- Boundary Establishment, 2 miles, Town of Lincoln
- Tri Creek timber sale pine thinning-ash removal
- Timber sale bid packet preparation
- Gate installation/cleaning culvert

Parks:

- Staff meeting
- Theft of items
- Continued operation plan Working through COVID

Snowmobile:

- 2020-21 Snowmobile Grant Application
- S5401 2018 Storm Damage Grant
- Approving SNARS entries
- Bridge rehabilitation Norwalk

Other:

- WPRA Conference Call how are parks handling COVID
- WDNR Conference Call-related to time standards/COVID
- County Deer Advisory Committee meetings (2)
- CWD Task Force Meeting
- Department Head Meeting
- Invasive Task force meeting