

**Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee**  
Regular Monthly Meeting – August 13, 2019  
Monroe County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

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

**Not Present:**

**Also Present:** B. Micheel (LC), C. Mulder (LC), T. Hansen (LC), R. Anderson (Land Use Planner), J. Roll (History) C. Ziegler (Parks), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), B. Halfman (UW\_EXT), M. Komiskey (NRCS), M. Mickelson (DNR), A. Younge (Deke Slayton) 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 July 9th NR & Extension Meeting:** The committee reviewed the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by A. McCoy, second by W. Habegger. Motion carried 3-0-2.

**Deke Slayton/Bike Museum:** A. Young reported that in June they hosted a bike decorating contest and had the bikes in parade. Space day/20<sup>th</sup> anniversary block party was a huge success. The first inaugural Junior Space Camp went wonderfully with 24 kids. Pig Roast event planning is going on. Just concluded a successful Space Camp for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Local History Room/Wegner Grotto:** J.Roll reported on recent news and events. Topics he highlighted included the summer intern hired through a Monroe County Historical Society grant, Grotto restoration activities, Art Outdoors happening on August 24<sup>th</sup>, and requesting a quote to move a Monroe County log cabin to the Brackett School property. Motion was made by A. McCoy to accept the report as presented, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 5-0-1.

1. **2020 Budget Review:** J. Roll presented the proposed 2020 budgets for the Local History Room and Wegner Grotto County Park. He reported that no special or unusual increases to either budget are being requested. Motion was made by W. Habegger to approve the budget, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 5-0-1.
2. **Reviewed & Approved Budget Adjustment:** A budget adjustment for \$1,576.64 was presented to cover the costs of sending Monroe County Local History Room Director, Jarrod Roll, to the American Association of State and Local History Conference in Philadelphia later this month, to receive the Leadership Award the History Room received, with said funds to come from the Contingency Fund. Motion was made by D. Peirce to approve the budget, second by J.Schroader. Motion carried 5-0-1.

**County Farms Education Funds:** None.

**Extension Office Business:**

1. **Review July Expenditures:** (Saxe) C. Saxe reviewed monthly expenditures.
2. **2020 Budget Discussion:** C. Saxe reported budget review down \$345, mileage went up and every educator fee is the same.
3. **Family Living Position:** C. Saxe reported 18 candidates applied, 6 have been invited to a preliminary interview. Final interview will be September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

4. **4H & Youth Development Report** Summer 4-H Intern S. Hanley, reported that Science day had 15 boys and girls present. She also had Clover camp 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> graders, county fair, state fair, and next week 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders go to Prairie du Chien.
5. **Agriculture Report** (Halfman) B. Halfman reported that insect sweeping is done. Concerned about winter feeding conditions. Hoards Dairyman on high quality dairy cows. Extension communication on hops project. Fresh market veggies getting late blight. Would like an industrial hemp meeting. *Motion made by J. Schroeder to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, second by W, Habhegger. Motion carried 4-0-1.*

**NRCS Report:** M. Komiskey reported that NRCS is wrapping up obligations of EQIP and CSP. Noted that contractors have been getting to some of our conservation practices and NRCS is grateful for their effort understanding all the challenges this year. NRCS is wrapping up compliance reviews and conservation planning that comes with that. CREP interest for filter strips is high and a big workload at this time.

K. Raymer arrived at 9:30 a.m.

**Land Conservation Department:**

1. **Conservation Camp Presentation:** E. Caulkins reported that she went to a summer environmental youth camp up in Marionette County. 60 kids, 8-9 kids in each cabin. 7 classes, 3 assigned, 4 to pick. They had three presenters from the animal reservation, DNR, and fishery. Committee presented certificate to Emily along with \$50 scholarship for attending camp.
2. **Review July Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed monthly expenditures.
3. **2020 Budget Discussion:** B. Micheel reported cropland rental, Intern, cost share programs will impact the 2020 budget. Tri-Creek lease agreement ends on the Kastberg farm this year, Proposing 3.3 acres of CREP buffer along the stream and retiring six acres of cropland across the stream. To maintain the intern position, propose funds from tree sales and non-metallic mining fees cover cost. Committee supports proposed actions and budget.
4. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel discussed Western Area Training/tour, attendees enjoyed presentation and tour. Plan to move annual tour to various counties within the area. CC24-Peterson dam repair completed last week. Private well sampling - \$10,000 grant awarded to the Health Dept. for 2020. Complaints of manure spreading, nitrates, and flooding have ramped up over the last month. Developing a Climate Change task force composed of county staff, supervisors, and agency personal. The Administrator (Tina) plans bring forth at the August 28<sup>th</sup> County Board Meeting. Participants on the task force need approval from county board. Micheel asked for participation from the committee, D. Pierce, J. Schroeder, A. McCoy, & W. Habhegger volunteered to participate. First meeting scheduled September 5<sup>th</sup> 10am-noon at assembly room. Reminder CWD Summit August 17<sup>th</sup> 3 p.m-6 p.m. at the Tomah, Warren Sportsmen's Alliance (Report Attached)
5. **Soil & Water Conservationist Report:** C. Mulder reported that construction on a 900' grassed waterway in Greenfield Township is completed. Finished construction on 1370' of riprap, 10 LUNKERS, 3 log weirs, and 2 root wads on a section of Moore Creek in Sheldon Township. Constructed 600' of streambank shaping and 3 rock weirs on the Little La Crosse River in Portland Township. Preparing for more stream projects beginning this month. Working on designs and applying for required permits for landowners. Enrolling interested landowners into CREP and completing CREP enrollment eligibility checks with NRCS. Helping land owners apply for programs.
6. **Review/Approve Cost Share Agreements:** Trent Zielger stream bank shaping, cost share \$1,500. *Motion was made by W. Habhegger to approve cost share agreements as presented, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 5-0-1.*
7. **Land Use Planner Report:** R. Anderson reported she is attending Town meetings to introduce

herself and talk about Comprehensive Planning. Had Fort McCoy Army community partnership follow-up meeting. Tri-Creek land use planning committee meeting reviewed and revised project goals/objectives for Tri-Creek property. Submitted NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant application and on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Attended Basic Ag for Conservationists training part 1. Serves on the County Censes Committee.

**DNR Reports:**

1. **Private Lands:** None
2. **M. Mickelson:** (DNR County Forest Liaison) reported clean up in northern counties with trail clean ups. New Tomah Forester starts August 18<sup>th</sup> Clint Gilman transferring from Black River Falls. Field day in October about invasive species at Jim and Bernie Arenas place in the Town of Little Falls.
3. **MFL:** None

**Forestry & Parks:**

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler discussed his monthly report.
2. **Approve Forestry Line Item Transfer:** *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve line item transfer second by J, Schroeder. Motion carried 5-0-1.*
3. **Approve 2020 Annual County Forest Work Plan Resolution:** C. Ziegler discussed the work plan. *Motion was made by W. Habegger to approve 2020 Annual County Forest Work Plan second by J, Schroeder. Motion carried 5-0-1.*
4. **2020 Forestry, Parks and Snowmobile Budget Review:** C. Ziegler reviewed the three budgets and answered questions.
5. **Review Forestry & Parks June Expenditures:** C. Ziegler submitted monthly expenditures.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

*Recorder: Arin Gowan*



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

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

- Worked with intern Elise on creating one-room school curriculum, specifically contacting other historical organizations requesting they share their lesson plans and attempting to set up site visits for observing other, similar programs
- Assisted Grotto restoration team as needed (acquiring supplies, locating reference photos)
- Continued to plan for and organize Art Outdoors event, including ordering supplies and equipment, sending out promotional materials, coordinating workers/helpers
- Processed artifact donations to LHR, assigning accession numbers and home locations
- Provided interview and Grotto tour to a graduate student researching outsider art sites
- Provided educational programming to students visiting the Local History Room
- Documented round barns in Monroe County by conducting physical site visits, interviews with some residents, and taking photographs
- Met with log cabin expert in Westby about the possibility of moving a log cabin back to Monroe County
- Provided programming to an adult bus tour at the History Room
- Defined the tasks and duties of the LHR Museum Services Associate
- Set up front room to serve as new director's office

**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 marriage records and sorting through court records
- Jim Ebert: indexing newspapers
- Sandy Waltermann: creating a master index of Monroe County graduates
- Adam Balz: indexing jail and probate 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
- Elise Primrose: MCHS summer intern creating curriculum for Brackett School
- TEN indexers from home: seven indexing newspapers, two indexing church records, and one indexing tax rolls

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## Joshua L. Goede

### Summer Camp

Monroe County had 12 youth sign up for the August 4-6 Open Enrollment Camp at Upham Woods in the Dells. The Agent went as an adult Chaperone with two other Monroe County Adults and the LaCrosse County Agent.

### Shooting Sports

The Shooting Sports Committee met August 7. They created a 16-week plan for Archery and Air Rifle. They want to continue with the success of this year's return of the powder sports. They are working to line up fair shoot rules to those of tournaments.

### AODA Opportunity w Monroe County Safe Community Coalition

The Agents 4 Change attended the National CADCA Conference in Dallas, TX. The young ladies that attended were all from the Wilton area. They learned how to plan for community change. They will part of our peer education program going into classrooms. It is exciting to expand this program to the NOW School District.

### St. Croix Summer Trip

33 4-II youth and four adult chaperones from St. Croix County were in Sparta on Thursday, August 1. The Agent helped lead a portion of the day talking about the history of the bike trail and other things that make Monroe County special. They group then visited the History Room and the Deke Slayton Museum.

### 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Road Trip

On August 23 MoCo 4-II will be headed to Prairie du Chem, WI. The trip will focus on early WI history at Villa Louis and on river Ecology as we head across the River to Marquette for a boat tour of the river ecosystems.

### Jr. Leader Road Trip

On August 24-25 the Jr. Leaders Plan to travel to the MN State Fair. We will visit the fair and other local attractions, possibly the zoo or Guthrie Theater. On the way home, we will be stopping in St. Croix County to explore that area of the state with the help of the St. Croix County Educator.

## Continuing Programs

### COMING SOON

- August 23 3-6 Grade Road Trip
- August 24-26 Jr. Leader Road Trip.
- Jr. Leaders
  - The Road Trip will the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> of August. The business meeting on Sunday morning will cover plans for 2019-2020 as well as wrapping up the Ice Cream stand business from fair 2019.
- Volunteers in Preparation
  - There are no more classes scheduled for 2019 until Fall. If a volunteer needs training a special time will be set up.

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**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

### **Agriculture Extension Highlights Update July 12, 2019 through August 13, 2019**

Insect collecting has been completed on the RNAi project that the Ag Agent is working on with one of the Cashton High School Students.

The leafhopper project using organic approved insect control products field work and insect collection parts of the project has been completed.

The Beef Cow-Calf workshop in cooperation with the Western Wisconsin Beef Producers workshop at Arcadia was held on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 18 people were in attendance, which is not bad considering the weather was decent and allowed for farmers to be able to make hay. Topics addressed winter feeding considerations with feed from this unusual growing season. The workshop will be held in Cashton on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Additional workshops will be held in Baldwin and Lancaster.

The Ag Agent was a contributor to a new fact sheet on selecting beef bulls for use on dairy cows and a co-author on producing high quality Holstein steers that will be in Hoard's Dairyman magazine.

One of the hops varieties in the nitrogen project was harvested on August 8<sup>th</sup> at Tomah. The other locations and varieties will be harvested in the next few weeks.

The Ag Agent was a presenter at the Eastern Iowa Feedlot Workshop on August 9<sup>th</sup>. He presented information on yardage costs and how to calculate them with the UW Extension Yardage Spreadsheet that he co-authored. There were 55 participants at the workshop.

There continues to be problems in the fresh market vegetable grower's fields this summer due to weather conditions.

The fair took up a lot of time in July with pre-fair preparations, and some post fair wrap up.

### **Upcoming Events- more to be added as they get finalized**

Aug 14 Area Beef Production workshop- Cashton  
Aug 21 Summer Crops Field Days- Tomah

# August 13th, 2019 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel - County Conservationist

## LCD Business:

- Invasive Species Working Group – 6 landowners have submitted application for consultation and cost sharing for invasive species treatment on their properties.
- Administrative Assistant Position – Arin Gowan started Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>!!
- Fort McCoy Collaboration - meeting to highlight activities that could be shared (Hwy dept. materials, invasive species mgt., etc.)
- Western Area Training/Tour – Supervisors/Dept. staff met at the Sparta Legion for training put on by DATCP and the WI Land & Water Director. Afternoon toured sand mine and the Sparta Waste Treatment Facility.
- Land Stewardship Awards – Winners of the three categories have been notified. August notification in local papers, website, & Facebook planned.
- PL566 Dams – Repairs completed by Leis Excavating last week on the Peterson dam. Auxiliary spillway extended beyond the original outlet and the opposite groin repaired. Should receive notice this week whether NRCS funding is approved for the Coon Creek and West Fork of the Kickapoo River Watershed Study. Plan to hold a third meeting for landowners/citizens in the Coon Creek watershed to provide and update on dams, funding, & future programs around the end of August.
- Groundwater/Private Well Sampling – \$10,000 grant awarded to the Monroe County Health Dept. will be used in 2020 to fund (home-owners/metals package) water quality sampling throughout Monroe County.
- Complaints – Receiving daily complaints on manure spreading, nitrates in groundwater, high water table and flood damage (July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>).
- Climate Change Task Force – Plan to develop and populate the task force with county department staff, county & town supervisors, agricultural reps, and resource professionals. Tina will seek approval for task force appointments at the August County Board meeting.

## Meeting Schedule:

- August 17<sup>th</sup> – (2 CWD Summits) Tomah, Warrens, Sportsmen's Alliance & the Amish Community near Cashton.
- August 20<sup>th</sup> – Kiwanis Club presentation
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> – CWD Task Force Meeting
- August 27<sup>th</sup> – Hawkeye Dairy – CAFO Public Hearing
- Sept 5<sup>th</sup> – Climate Change Task Force Meeting/Invasive Species Working Group Meeting
- Sept 6<sup>th</sup> – NRCS Local Work Group Meeting
- Sept 8<sup>th</sup> – Tysons Truck/Equipment demo
- Sept 10<sup>th</sup> – Natural Resource & Extension Committee

## August 13, 2019-- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

### Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**

- Ongoing construction of County and Federal projects. 1520 lin ft of riprap, 800' of bank shaping completed. 1 earthen dam repair started.
- Visited potential sites for 2019 CREP signup.
- Reminder letter of projects needed to be completed, sent to contractors.
- Contacted Nutrient Management participants/consultants to check on plan development status.
- Completed CREP inspections

### Christina Mulder

- **Activities**

- Finished construction on a 900' grassed waterway in Greenfield Township.
- Finished construction on 1370' of riprap, 10 LUNKERS, 3 log weirs, and 2 root wads on a section of Moore Creek in Sheldon Township.
- Constructed 600' of shaping streambank and 3 rock weirs on the Little LaCrosse River in Portland Township.
- Preparing for more stream projects beginning this month.
- Working on designs and applying for required permits for landowners.
- Enrolling interested landowners into CREP and completing CREP enrollment eligibility checks with NRCS.



# August 2019 - Land Use Planner's Report

## Roxie Anderson

### Activities:

- Comprehensive Plans - Summary of activities:
  - July 8 - Attended Town of Wellington Board meeting to introduce myself and talk about Comprehensive Plan. Provided additional materials after meeting to Planning Commission and have been invited to attend a Planning Commission meeting on September 24 to talk about development of a Comprehensive Plan.
  - July 9 - Facilitated Town of Glendale's Planning Commission meeting for their Comprehensive Plan update. Assist Raye Waltz and Don Yahnke with preparing public participation plan adoption resolution. Next meeting scheduled for August 15.
  - August 7 - Attended Town of Little Falls Planning Commission meeting to review progress on their Comprehensive Plan update and provide assistance.
  - August 8 – Town of Wells will be appointing their Planning Commission.
  - Confirmed meetings to attend Town of Oakdale and Town of Grant Planning Commission meetings on August 27 and 28, respectively.
  - Received resolution and ordinance templates from Wisconsin Towns Association for Comprehensive Plan Amendment adoption.
- Fort McCoy Army Community Partnership follow-up meeting – July 10: Review proposed partnerships from previous kick start meeting with Ft. McCoy's Public Works staff and build out project ideas. A partnership agreement is being drafted for next year's LIDAR imagery. Other proposed partnerships: such as invasive species management, phosphorus trading, and ACUB (Army Compatible Use Buffer) were discussed and will be followed-up on.
- Tri-Creek Land Use Planning Committee meeting – July 11: Reviewed and revised project goals/objectives for Tri-Creek. Drafted a vision statement for the plan document and review and revise plan outline. Next meeting schedule for Oct. 31.
- NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant application and submittal – July 30: I worked with Bob, Michelle, Matt Komiskey (USGS), and Jeff Hastings (Trout Unlimited) to develop a project proposal to characterize NRCS streambank conservation practice design standards in flood-prone areas and evaluate cost-effective alternatives. The grant application funding request is for \$227,500 over a 3 year project period. The application was submitted July 30<sup>th</sup> via the workspace environment on Grants.gov. Our team will continue to build on this project and look for other grant funding opportunities.
- Basic Ag for Conservationists Training Part 1 – August 6: Attended full-day of training sessions presented by UW Extension and NRCS.
- Monroe County 2020 Census Complete Count Committee: The County Board passed Resolution 07-19-03 to create a Census Complete County Committee, I have been appointed to serve on committee.

### Meetings / Trainings:

- August 14 – Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission
- August 15 – Town of Glendale Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan update
- August 15 – Wisconsin Towns Association Monroe County Unit
- August 27 – Town of Oakdale Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan update
- August 28 – Town of Grant Planning Commission Introduction
- September 4 – DATCP Public Hearing on Livestock Facility Siting Rule

## Forestry & Parks Report (August) – Ziegler

### Forestry:

- Invasive Spraying
  - Buckthorn – approx. 25 acres
- Sale 152
- Annual Partnership meeting with WDNR
- CWD Task Force meeting

### Parks:

- After 1<sup>st</sup> week of August: \$110,000 (\$2,000 higher than last year)
- Department Head Meeting
- PTO meeting

### Snowmobile:

- 2018-19 Supplemental application-completed/submitted
- 2018 Storm Damage Application-completed/submitted