

Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting – September 10, 2019
Monroe County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

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

Not Present: J. Schroeder

Also Present: B. Micheel (LC), C. Mulder (LC), R. Anderson (Land Use Planner), C. Ziegler (Parks), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), M. Komiskey (NRCS), M. Modjeski (DNR Warden), 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 August 13th 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 4-0-2.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: None

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto: Report Attached.

County Farms Education Funds: None.

Extension Office Business:

1. **Review August Expenditures:** (Saxe) C. Saxe reviewed monthly expenditures.
2. **Family Living Position:** C. Saxe reported three candidates for the final interview on September 17th, 2019. One candidate will be a phone or internet interview.
3. **4H & Youth Development Report:** Report Attached
4. **Agriculture Report:** Report Attached
Motion made by A. McCoy to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, second by W, Habegger. Motion carried 4-0-2.

NRCS Report: M. Komiskey reported that NRCS is nearing the end of the federal fiscal year. Wrapping up obligations to EQIP and CSP. Also finalizing CREP contracting and compliance reviews. Contractors are working hard to meet the September 15th deadline to be working in trout streams and there are other practices ready for construction once they are done with streambanks.

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Review August Expenditures:** B. Micheel discussed. (Report Attached)
2. **Review/Approve- Conservation Reserve Enhance Program (CREP) - New Acres:** Reviewed. B. Micheel discussed enrolling the field along upper Beaver Creek in the southwest corner of the County farm; along with 50' strip at the Tri Creek property along Moore Creek (Kastburg Farm) this includes changing 6 acer of cropland to grass/tree planting South of Monroe Co. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve CREP as presented, second by W. Habegger. Motion carried 4-0-2*
3. **Review/Approve – Fishing Easements:** Reviewed and Approved *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve fishing easement for B.King on Farmers Valley Creek , second by W. Habegger. Motion carried 5-0-1*

4. **Review/Approve – Climate Change Resolution:** *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve climate change resolution as presented, second by W. Habegger. Motion carried 4-0-2*
5. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel reviewed and discussed on Climate Change Task Force and CAFO permit application. Also talked about CDW in Monroe County. (Report Attached)
- K. Raymer Arrived
6. **Soil & Water Conservationist Report:** C. Mulder reported that they finished construction on 200' of riprap on a tributary to Tarr Creek in Greenfield Township. Installed 200' of riprap and two LUNKERS on Farmers Valley Creek in Angelo Township. They finished construction on 500' of streambank shaping and three rock weirs on tributary of the Little LaCrosse River in Portland Township. They finished construction on 630' riprap, 15 LUNKERS, and numerous log weirs and root wads on a section of Beaver Creek in Sparta Township. Ongoing construction on the LaCrosse River (City of Sparta) and Big Creek (Sparta Township). Working on designs and applying for required permits for landowners.
7. **Review/Approve Cost Share Agreements:** C. Mulder reviewed Bill Herrman repair phase 2 is \$3,569.99 for streambank project. Bill Herrman phase 3 is \$4,110.00 for streambank project. Andy Schaitel pit closure is up to \$3,500.00 for Waste Facility Closure. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve cost share agreements second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 5-0-1.*
8. **Land Use Planner Report:** R. Anderson reported she is working with multiple towns on the comprehensive plans. She attended The Mississippi Regional Planning Commission meeting, Wisconsin Towns Association meeting, Vernon County Technical Tour, and DNR public hearing Hawkeye Dairy CAFO WPDES permit. Reviewed with Bob the DATCP Livestock Facility Siting Rule, proposed rule changes and determined that comments do not need to be submitted to DATCP. NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant application and submittal was declined due to proposed contract work with USGS. Fed. conflict working on proposal for invasive species management for USFS Landscape Scale Restoration grant. Draft deadline for that is September 13th. The NRCS grant project proposal will be modified and submitted for the grant program.

DNR Reports:

1. **Private Lands:** None
2. **Warden:** M. Modjeski stated that DNR has a mobile app called Hunt Wild Wisconsin. That is available for newer smartphones and is very resourceful.
3. **MFL:** None

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler discussed his monthly report. (Report Attached)
2. **Review Forestry & Parks August Expenditures:** C. Ziegler submitted monthly expenditures.
3. **Approve Forestry Line Item Transfer:** Administrator grant was approximately \$1,400 more than anticipated. Half of the grant is transferred to the Park Revenue which made the expense account over budget. An account was set up for project loan repayment. The auditors want a revenue and an expense account. The line item transfer is authorizing the new expense account and funding it so the county can repay the portion of the project loan that comes due in 2019. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve line item transfer second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 15th, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Recorder: Arin Gowan



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since 1976.*

LHR Director / County Historian's Report, August 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; observed and evaluated the trial run of the program conducted at the school with Boys and Girls club members
- Created reference guide for fulfilling orders placed via www.MCLHR.org so that volunteers and staff know where to locate the primary source material
- Continued to plan for and organize Art Outdoors event, including ordering supplies and equipment, sending out promotional materials, coordinating workers/helpers, ordering tables, chairs, and tent, driving to Edgewood College to retrieve painting supplies; set up tents
- Ran Art Outdoors event with 275 people in attendance; sent out press release afterwards promoting the success of the event; returned painting supplies to Edgewood College
- Sorted through records transferred to LHR from Grant Township; stored needed tax rolls in the basement of the Monroe County Administration Building (along with the others)
- Attended new teacher luncheon at the DSM to promote the relationship LHR has with the school district
- Managed the scanning of documents and photos on loan from the Sparta School District and from various members of the public
- Attended AASLH Conference in Philadelphia including presenting at a session titled, "Trends and Lessons from the Leadership in History Awards"

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

200 West Main Street Sparta, Wisconsin 54656-2141
608-269-8680 • Fax: 608-269-8921

Email: MCLHR@centurytel.net • www.MonroeCountyHistory.org • www.Facebook.com/mclhr



Joshua L. Goede

Summer Camp

Our Summer camp went well with 12 youth attending the open enrollment camp at Upham Woods in the Dells. Next year Area 13 will hold camp as a large group and will have planning authority over it. We are looking forward to the opportunity this affords.

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 have a major project coming up with the Cashton Parent Teacher Conferences. They will hold an Escape Room focusing on the harmful effects of vaping. The coalition is also organizing a curriculum to share with parents helping them to talk with their youth about vaping. The A4C is working on a video to help parent understand the new curriculum.

3rd-6th Grade Road Trip

On August 23 MOCO 4-H headed to Prairie du Chein, WI. The trip focused on early WI history at Villa Louis and on river Ecology as we headed across the River to Marquette for a boat tour of the river ecosystems. There were 17 youth and 5 adults that attend. We also had a pizza picnic in the park.

Jr. Leader Road Trip

On August 24-25 the Jr. Leaders traveled to the twin cities. On Saturday they did a walking tour of the University of Minnesota Campus. The tour was led by MOCO4-H Alumnus Rose Adams. They visited the Great Minnesota Get Together and had some down time at the hotel. On Sunday, the group celebrated American capitalism at the Mall Of America. There were 16 youth and two chaperones on the trip as well.

Continuing Programs

COMING SOON

- September 9 Record Books Due.
- November 1-3 Fall Forum
- November 9 Family Celebration
- Jr. Leaders
 - The Jr. Leaders will have a meeting in September and November. Their goal this year is to meet more regularly.

Volunteers in Preparation

- ■ VIP is being updated and will not be offered until after September 19. After the 19th we will offer two sessions a month through the end of the year.

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 August 14, 2019 to September 10, 2019

The Beef Cow-Calf workshop in cooperation with the Western Wisconsin Beef Producers workshop at Cashton was held on August 14th. Approximately 31 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. A survey of participants indicated that 89% of respondents rated the workshop good or excellent. One participant indicated that based on information they learned from this workshop they were going to increase bunk space in their winter feeding area. Twelve participants indicated they had attended prior workshops and all 12 had indicated they had made changes based on what they learned at previous workshops. Some of the changes that were listed included: improved use of by-product feeds, improved fencing, improved winter feeding management rotate pastures, made better culling decisions, several indicated general overall management improvement.

Hops varieties in the nitrogen trials have been harvested at Tomah, Waterloo, and Rosholt. This year cones will be analyzed for quality in addition to yield.

The annual summer crops field day was held at the Gene and Denise Baumgarten farm south of Tomah on August 21. Similar field days were held the day before near West Salem and DeSoto. Topics covered were soil nutrient management, managing soil compaction and cover crops, an update on growing winter wheat, soybean gall midge, and considerations for fall harvest, and emergency forage. There were 41 participants at the workshop and we know we were competing with making hay that day.

Late blight was detected in Monroe County in August and several phone calls and office visits have shown that is it widespread in tomato plants. Downy mildew on cucurbits (vine crops) was identified in Vernon County and the ag agent would not be surprised if there was not some in Monroe County too. These two disease do not survive through winter this far north and have to have spores pushed in on weather fronts from the south each year. We do not see these diseases every year, but they can be devastating.

Ag agents are working on trying to bring area ag bankers together for some discussion on potential educational needs and programming.

The Ag Agent is working with his Taylor County counterpart to update the Beef Quality Assurance Curriculum with the new materials from the National BQA program. These will be used for BQA certifications for the next three years.

Upcoming Events-

Agents are working on planning and development of upcoming workshops and programming through the winter.

September 10th, 2019 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel - County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Invasive Species Working Group – Saturday, October 19th is the next invasive species field day at the Little Falls Town Hall/Arenas property. Open to public, learn how to identify invasive plants and management strategies.
- CWD Summits: Held two summits on August 17th, one in Cashton with the Amish Community (50 attendees) and the Tomah, Warrens, Sportsmen's Alliance. Light attendance from the public in Tomah but our local reps listened and asked questions of the guest speaker – Bryan Richards. Developed a flyer for distribution that details CWD sample sites, dumpsters and donation locations in Monroe County.
- PL566 Dams – Still waiting for notice from NRCS on funding the Coon Creek and West Fork of the Kickapoo River Watershed Study. No word on the failure report. Plan to hold a third meeting for landowners/citizens in the Coon Creek watershed to provide and update on dams, funding, & future programs once all information is forwarded to the counties. 1 year anniversary received lots of media coverage. Received funding for the 3 dams that breached to cleanup and stabilize area at the dam and below.
- Perch Lake Dam – Based on citizen request, we developed considerations for removing the structure along with maintaining the existing structure. This led to Kiwanis presentation and articles in the newspaper pertaining to the upcoming decision the city of Sparta faces on the fate of the Perch Lake dam.
- CAFO Public Hearing – Hawkeye Dairy (Bob Radke) is seeking a CAFO permit for approximately 1,300 animal units, public hearing was held on August 27th in Norwalk. DNR hosted the meeting, owners of the dairy and concerned neighbors in attendance. Concern over groundwater contamination and runoff to surface waters.
- Internship – 2019 summer intern (Tori Hansen) competed for the year. Plan to continue program moving forward in 2020.
- Climate Change Task Force – The first Climate Change Task Force meeting was held on Sept 5th. The group of 16 members developed 10 goals/objectives to accomplish in Monroe County. A resolution for County Board Approval was developed based on the 10 goals while acknowledging climate change.

Meeting Schedule:

- September 26 – Dept. Head meeting
- October 3rd – Fall Tech Tour
- October 4th – Climate Change Task Force Meeting
- October 8th – Natural Resource & Extension Committee

September 2019 - Land Use Planner's Report

Roxie Anderson

Activities:

- Comprehensive Plans - Summary of activities:
 - August 15 and Sept 5 – Town of Glendale Planning Commission working sessions to update the Comprehensive Plan. Next meeting scheduled for October 2.
 - August 27 – Town of Oakdale Planning Commission review of Comprehensive Plan update process and public participation plan. Next meeting scheduled for September 23.
 - August 28 – Town of Grant Planning Commission introduction and review of Comprehensive Plan update and public participation plan. Next meeting scheduled for September 18.
 - September 4 – Town of Leon introduction and discussion on updating comprehensive plan
 - September 5 – Town of Greenfield Planning Commission introduction and discussion about comprehensive plan. Greenfield expressed that they are interested in developing a comprehensive plan.
 - Town of Wellington planning commission meeting scheduled for September 24
- Mississippi Regional Planning Commission meeting – August 14: updates on the status of Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants for Ontario, LaFarge, Viola and Readstown. Small Business Administration announcement of economic injury disaster loans available in Wisconsin for farm and non-farm related businesses.
- Wisconsin Towns Association Meeting – August 15: Updates from Legislators or their representatives. Network with Town Supervisors.
- Vernon County Technical Tour – August 20: Presentations about cover crops and rainfall simulator demonstration. UW Extension presentations about nutrient management and soil compaction.
- DNR public hearing Hawkeye Dairy CAFO WPDES permit – August 27: Attended public hearing as observer to listen to testimonies from residents and landowner.
- DATCP public hearing Livestock Facility Siting Rule Review: Reviewed proposed rule changes and reviewed with Bob, determined that comments do not need to be submitted to DATCP.
- NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant application and submittal – update: Grant application was declined due to proposed contract work with USGS. NRCS federal funding is not eligible to pay for USGS services.
- USFS Landscape Scale Restoration grant application: Scoping meetings held with Bob, Mic Armstrong, and Chad Ziegler regarding potential projects, we agreed upon developing a proposal for invasive species management. Also consulting with Josh Benes with Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development to be included in their grant application for expansion of Managed Forest Law program and Deer Management Assistance Program. Initial draft deadline is September 13.
- Fishers and Farmers Partnership grant application: The project proposal submitted for the NRCS grant will be modified and submitted for this grant program. Application is due October 4.

Meetings / Trainings:

- September 18 – Town of Grant Planning Commission working session
- September 23 – Town of Oakdale Planning Commission working session
- September 24 – Basic Ag for Conservationists Part 2
- September 24 – Town of Wellington Planning Commission
- September 26 – Census Complete Count Committee
- October 2 – Town of Glendale Planning commission working session

September 10, 2019-- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**

- Ongoing construction of County and Federal projects. Completed streambank riprap, shaping, and stream crossing projects. Continued construction on Grade Stabilization pipe replacement.
- Visited potential sites for 2019 CREP signup.

Christina Mulder

- **Activities**

- Finished construction on 200' of riprap on a tributary to Tarr Creek in Greenfield Township.
- Finished construction on 200' of riprap and 2 LUNKERS on Farmers Valley Creek in Angelo Township.
- Finished construction on 500' of streambank shaping and 3 rock weirs on a tributary of the Little LaCrosse River in Portland Township.
- Finished construction on 630' Riprap, 15 LUNKERS, and numerous log weirs and root wads on a section of Beaver Creek in Sparta Township.
- Ongoing construction on the LaCrosse River (City of Sparta) and Big Creek (Sparta Township).
- Working on designs and applying for required permits for landowners.

Forestry & Parks Report (September) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Timber sale establishment – New Lyme
- Sale 152
- CWD Informational meeting
- Produced reports for Tri Creek Property
 - Cover Type Report
 - Scheduled Practices Report
- USFS Landscape Scale Restoration Grant
- Fire Break in New Lyme

Parks:

- WCFA Conference Call
- Submitted 2020 Budget
- Department Head Meeting
- PTO meeting

Snowmobile:

- STMC meeting – GPS trails
- Received 2019-20 Maintenance Grant
- WI Snowmobile Council approved 2018 Storm damage application: \$28,146.73