



Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee

Regular Monthly Meeting – October 15, 2019

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

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

Not Present: N/A

Also Present: B. Micheel (LC), C. Mulder (LC), R. Anderson (Land Use Planner), C. Ziegler (Parks), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.) B. Halfman (UW-EXT), A. Young (Deke Slayton, Museum), J. Goede (4H), C. Gilman (DNR Forester), 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 September 11th NR & Extension Meeting: The committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by D. Pierce, A. McCoy, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: A. Young reported that visitors have slowed down, which is normal for this time. Have had bus tours go through both museums. Went to Marshfield library and did a presentation about Deke. Put together a new display at the museum of letters written by Deke to different people. Still looking for a new director.

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto: J. Roll reported they had a successful second run of the new Bracket School lesson plans with 32 St. Pat's students participating. The LHR Christmas display for 2019 will be "Christmas Mountain miniature village" in memory of longtime LHR volunteer Joan Cook. Work at the Grotto has been busy even though the season is ending—new roof on the Grotto shed, several trees trimmed and removed, and the sand point well has been made operable again. Roll reported that the Aug. 24, 2019 "Art Outdoors at the Wegner Grotto" event was the most successful yet with 275 people participating. *Motion made by D. Pierce to accept the LHR/Grotto report, second by W, Habegger. Motion carried 5-0-1*

1. **Local History Room request from the County Farm Proceeds Grant:** LHR is requesting a grant to cover some of the cost of updating and improving the lights in museum (proper track lighting and LED lighting). The committee deemed that the request falls outside the parameters of the County Farm Proceeds Grant and suggested that Jarrod check with the County Administrator to see if there might be some funds in the Maintenance budget to help offset the \$15,880 cost.

Extension Office Business:

1. **Review September Expenditures:** (Saxe) C. Saxe reviewed monthly expenditures.
2. **Family Living Position:** C. Saxe reported two candidates final interview. Didn't feel comfortable with the 2nd candidate. Offered the 1st candidate the position, they politely declined. We have reposted for the position, deadline is October 31st.
3. **4H & Youth Development Report:** J. Goede reported that new county plat books are published and are \$30 a book. Will be at CCF bank and Bank First in Tomah. He is going to parent teacher conferences and educating parents on vape pens, and hiding spots for drinking and smoking.

K. Raymer arrived at 9:21 a.m.

4. **Agriculture Report:** Halfman reported the last of the hops varieties in the nitrogen trials have been harvested at Waterloo. We will be deep soil profile sampling to look at nitrogen in the soil profile at the Tomah hops trial location on October 25th. All samples have been sent in for analysis and we are awaiting the results. A number of plant samples have been sent in to the disease diagnostic clinic over the past month for diagnosis. Sudden Death Syndrome was identified in two soybean fields, Brown Stem Rot in one field and Phytophthora root rot in another. The insect catches from the project looking at RNAi compounds to control Colorado Potato Beetle have been completed. Jumping worms were positively identified in Monroe County. They are an invasive species of earthworms that are problematic. The Ag Agent conducted a 4-H shooting sports adult training and certification workshop for the shotgun project on September 14th. The Ag Agent has been working with one of our farm management specialists to assist a few farms evaluate their situations and help them identify plans to work through problems. We wrapped up the pilot project of tracking the dairy x beef cross animals through the feedlot. The Ag Agent along with his Grant County counterpart evaluated and got weights on the animals September 11 and then helped weigh and ultrasound them to look at ribeye size, shape and marbling. We are working on a summary of the information at this time. We will soon have our data collection tool done and begin recruiting additional farms to collect data on these animals. The Ag Agent and his Dodge, Marathon and Taylor County counterparts completed updating the Beef Quality Assurance Curriculum with the new materials from the National BQA program. They conducted an in-service to get the other County Ag folks up to date with the new materials. We will offer BQA trainings for farmers in the area this winter.

Motion made by A. McCoy to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, second by W, Habegger. Motion carried 6-0.

NRCS Report: M. Komiskey reported that the federal government wrapped up the fiscal year on September 30th. We have several days of delay in software usage, but are up again now. We are currently accepting applications for any programs, but do not currently have an announced sign-up deadline for EQIP or CSP. Programs will be delayed this year due to newly developed software deployment and nationally finalizing new Farm Bill rules for programs. We are outside of DNR permit timeline for working in trout streams. We now have contract management for several projects that did not get installed in 2019 and will be pushed back to 2020. Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group is meeting Saturday in Little Falls for field day to educate landowners on identification and control of invasive species.

Fort McCoy Update: T. Townsell reported that tested Silver Creek ground water. Tested positive for PFAS chemicals but is not in our drinking water. Working with DNR investigating Silver Creek.

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Review September Expenditures:** B. Micheel discussed. (Report Attached)
2. **Review/Approve- Budget Adjustment (Comp Planning Grant):** Reviewed. B. Micheel discussed. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve Adjustment for Comp Planning Grant as presented, second by W. Habegger. Motion carried 6-0*
3. **Review/Approve – Fishing Easements:** Reviewed and Approved *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve fishing easement for David and Annette Kunes, second by W. Habegger. Motion carried 6-0*
4. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel reviewed and discussed Invasive Species Working Group. Received funding for the 3 dams that breached to cleanup and stabilize area at the dam and below. Seeking permits and plan to bid out this month. The second Climate Change Task Force meeting on October 4th tackled the first objective by developing/implementing weather

stations in two watershed basins. The group heard presentations from the National Weather Service - Todd Shae and John Wetenkamp; along with R. Anderson on Weather Underground. A subgroup will meet to explore equipment options, location & cost and bring their proposal back to the CCTF. Budget review with finance and the administrator resulted in a couple minor changes with the 2020 LCD proposed budget. Over application of manure in fields including waterways; potential fish kills, flooded basements & streambank erosion with additional rains events this past month. Stewardship Awards Banquet news release to the Monroe County papers went out last week with the 2019 winners announced. This kicks off promotion of the 2020 banquet in January. (Report Attached)

5. **Soil & Water Conservationist Report:** C. Mulder reported they completed Streambank Riprap projects, stream crossing and grade stabilization structure. Visited potential sites for 2020 construction projects. Finishing up construction and seeding and mulching recently completed projects. Attended the 2019 Wisconsin Land & Water Technical Tour in Vernon County on Thursday, October 3rd. Gathering required information for Jeff Deniger (NRCS Resource Soil Scientist) to investigate potential wetlands for 2020 projects. Seeking out potential grade stabilization structure (dam) sites on inquired landowners' properties. Beginning design surveys for 2020 projects (waterways, streambank protection, critical area planting, and dams). (Report Attached)
6. **Land Use Planner Report:** R. Anderson is working with half of the Towns (12) in the County to update or develop their Comprehensive plans. There are currently 5 Towns in progress of updating their plan, 4 Towns preparing to start their update, and 3 Towns considering development of a Comprehensive Plan. Attended Basic Ag for Conservationists Training Part 2, Monroe County Census Complete Count Committee, Climate Change Task Force, and Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission meetings. Compeer Financial approved a grant award of \$5,000 for the project proposal "Updating Comprehensive Plans for Rural Communities of Monroe County, Wisconsin". Sponsorship agreement has been signed and funding will be received by end of October. U.S. Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration grant application: Project Proposal, "Expanding Collaborative Efforts of the Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group", was submitted on Sept. 13. The proposal requests \$100,000 in grant funding over a 3-year project period with an in-kind match of \$115,320. The proposal was reviewed and approved by the State committee and a letter of support was provided by the State Forester. The final project application was submitted on Oct. 11 through Grants.gov and will be reviewed by the national committee. Golden Sands RCD also submitted a grant application which includes a proposed demonstration site at the Tri-Creeks property and would provide some funding for County Forester. Fishers and Farmers Partnership grant application: Project proposal "Establish Real-Time Weather Monitoring Stations to Improve Success of Conservation Practices in Flood-Prone Areas" was submitted on October 4. This is a program administered through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the National Fish Habitat Partnership. The proposal requests \$49,523 in grant funding over a 2-year project period with an in-kind match of \$85,808. (Report Attached)

DNR Forestry Reports:

1. **Forestry:** C. Gilman reported DNR is helping Chippewa County with tornado damage.
2. **Warden:** None
3. **Managed Forest Law Program:** None

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler reported timber sale establishments in the Town of New Lyme and DNR dozer projects on-going. Sale 152 is almost complete just have to close out with final payment. Native seed collection dispersal for pollinators. Treated the buckhorn and

honeysuckle at Meadow View, will be an ongoing project. McMullen Park has brought in about \$20,000 in 9 days leading up to Cranfest. Fall and winter preparations. Snowmobile supplemental down payment has been received (total amount is about \$60,000). Snowmobile council tentatively approved 12 miles of new trail. DNR still has to review. (Report Attached)

2. **Review Forestry & Parks August Expenditures:** C. Ziegler submitted monthly expenditures.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 12th, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Recorder: Arin Gowan



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

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

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

- Finalized one-room school curriculum and scheduled a school to participate in a second trial run
- Created Art Outdoors participation report providing demographics of participants
- Drafted Annual Fund documents, including the Ask Letter, Highlights page, donation form, and mailing list
- Processed back log of artifacts donated to LHR (assigned accession numbers, researched history of objects when necessary, photographed, assigned storage locations)
- Began planning of 2019 holiday season display, including meeting with the lender of the collection to be displayed and beginning preliminary designs for the layout
- Consulted with volunteer Jane to solve indexing challenges with the court record indexing project; created box labels for the court record case boxes
- Met with Finance Department and County Administrator to discuss 2020 Grotto and LHR budgets
- Attended semi-regional meeting of SW WI historical groups
- Wrote and sent out press release promoting MCLHR receiving the AASLH Leadership in History Award in Philadelphia

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
- TEN indexers from home: seven indexing newspapers, two indexing church records, and one indexing tax rolls

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Highlighted Projects and Activities by Museum Services Associate

September 2019

- Photographed and reformatted Immanuel Lutheran, Dorset Ridge, Church Records volume to add to the collection
 - Added LHR News pages to MCHS Newsletter, updated MCHS mailing list, and printed newsletter pages and mailing labels
 - Assisted Director with creating list of recently-donated artifacts for LHR Board approval and processing backlogged items
 - Fulfilled select phone research requests
 - Compiled yearly stats and formatted “Highlights Pages” for 2019 Annual Fund Mailing
 - Compiled mailing list for 2019 Annual Fund
 - Met with Director and Summer Intern to finalize Brackett School Program development
 - Edited Brackett School Teaching Module and helped prep programming materials
 - Attended Mini-Regional Meeting in Tomah on September 23
 - Assisted Director with developing upcoming exhibits
 - Prepared materials for upcoming presentations to MJJ and DKG groups
-
- Regular tasks: updated MCLHR Facebook page with at least three posts per week promoting LHR events, collections, exhibits, and website updates; updated website gift shop items; restocked museum gift shop; provided research assistance to the public (via Facebook page, telephone, and in person patrons); provided customer service to museum visitors; helped assign storage locations, cataloged, and photographed artifacts removed from displays and those recently donated; helped process new donation offerings; helped coordinate and supervise volunteer projects



Joshua L. Goede

Community Youth Development Conference

The Agent attended a two-day conference in Madison about Community Youth Development. Discussed at length how do we get the learning and skills of positive youth development out into our communities. Many good ideas were shared for programs and ways to strengthen community programs outside of 4-H Clubs.

Shooting Sports

The volunteer group will volunteer at the Bangor Whitetails Unlimited Banquet. This gives the public a chance to talk with our volunteers about what 4-H is doing involved with teaching safety and life skills around the shooting sports.

Agents 4 Change w/Monroe County Safe Community Coalition

Agents 4 Change are in the middle of a major project. The group was able to participate in the Cashton and Brookwood Parent Teacher Conferences. They have held an Escape Room focusing on the harmful effects of vaping. Working with the coalition curriculum was adapted and put

out through the schools to share with parents. The curriculum uses videos to help parents talk with their youth about vaping. The A4C also created a video to help parents understand the new curriculum.

The Agent also worked to present a demonstration of various ways that youth who fall in to the drug lifestyle hides from their parents.

Fall Forum

The annual statewide gathering of youth and adult volunteers. Monroe County will have 4 youth and an Adult volunteer present. The Agent and a former member will be presenting a session for youth aimed at teaching the skills necessary to have civil discourse.

End of Year

It is that time of year again. Record books are scored and interviews scheduled for awards and trips. The 4-H Family Celebration will be November 9, 2019 at the Leon Community Center. The event will run 2-4 pm starting with a potluck dinner. All members of our county oversight committee are invited to join us.

Continuing Programs

COMING SOON

- Officer Training, October 27, 2-5 pm.
- Fall Forum November 1-3, Green Lake, WI
- November 9, 4-H Family Celebration. Will be at the Leon Community Center
- Youth Interviews for awards and trips. November 19.
- Jr. Leaders
 - The next meeting will be November 16th. We will be helping to set up the lights in Evans-Boshard Park
- 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 September 11, 2019 through October 15, 2019

The last of the hops varieties in the nitrogen trials have been harvested at Waterloo. We will be deep soil profile sampling to look at nitrogen in the soil profile at the Tomah hops trial location on October 25th. All samples have been sent in for analysis and we are awaiting the results.

A number of plant samples have been sent in to the disease diagnostic clinic over the past month for diagnosis. Sudden Death Syndrome was identified in two soybean fields, Brown Stem Rot in one field and Phytophthora root rot in another. In addition to those, bitter pit and plum curculio larvae were diagnosed in apple samples from one of the orchards.

The insect catches from the project looking at RNAi compounds to control Colorado Potato Beetle have been completed, we had three UW folks along with the Ag Agent go to Cashton High School for a day to count insects to keep the project from overwhelming the high school student.

Jumping worms were positively identified in Monroe County. They are an invasive species of earthworms that are problematic.

The Ag Agent conducted a 4-H shooting sports adult training and certification workshop for the shotgun project on September 14th. Seven people were trained in the shotgun project at the workshop.

The Ag Agent has been working with one of our farm management specialists to assist a few farms evaluate their situations and help them identify plans to work through problems.

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The Ag Agent and his Dodge, Marathon and Taylor County counterparts completed updating the Beef Quality Assurance Curriculum with the new materials from the National BQA program. They conducted an in-service to get the other County Ag folks up to date with the new materials. We will offer BQA trainings for farmers in the area this winter.

Upcoming Events-

October 19th Monroe County Invasive Species Workgroup Field Day

October 25th Ag Lender workshop Cashton

November 8th Pest Mgt Update for Ag Professionals- Bangor

December 4th Soil and Nutrient Mgt Update for Ag Professionals- Sparta

December 5th ? Industrial Hemp Workshop

January 9th Agronomy Update for Ag Professionals- Sparta

Additional workshops are being developed.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements

October 15th, 2019 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel - County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Invasive Species Working Group – Saturday, October 19th invasive species field day at the Little Falls Town Hall/Arenas property. Open to public, learn how to identify invasive plants and management strategies.
- PL566 Dams – Received funding for the 3 dams that breached to cleanup and stabilize area at the dam and below. Seeking permits and plan to bid out this month.
- Climate Change Task Force – The second Climate Change Task Force meeting on October 4th tackled the first objective by developing/implementing weather stations in two watershed basins. The group heard presentations from the National Weather Service - Todd Shae and John Wetenkamp; along with R. Anderson on Weather Underground. A subgroup will meet to explore equipment options, location & cost and bring their proposal back to the CCTF.
- 2020 Budget – Budget review with finance and the administrator resulted in a couple minor changes with the 2020 LCD proposed budget.
- Runoff & Manure Complaints – Over application of manure in fields including waterways; potential fish kills, flooded basements & streambank erosion with additional rains events this past month.
- Stewardship Awards Banquet – News release to the Monroe County papers went out last week with the 2019 winners announced (Conservationist – City of Sparta; Conservation Farmer – Joe & Deb Hemmersbach; & Tree Farmer – Chris & Joyce Barlow. This kicks off promotion of the 2020 banquet in January. (Handout invites/flyer)

Meeting Schedule:

- October 16th – Finance meeting
- October 17th – CWD Task Force Meeting
- October 19th – Invasive Species Field Day/Coon Creek WSH tour UW-Madison Students
- October 24th – Dept. Head Meeting/Invasive Species Working Group meeting
- October 31st – Tri-Creek Land Use meeting
- November 5th – Sustainability Workshop – La Crosse TC
- November 6th – Budget Hearing
- November 12th - Natural Resource & Extension Committee

October 2019 - Land Use Planner's Report

Roxie Anderson

Activities:

- Comprehensive Plans - Summary of activities:
 - September 18 and October 8– Town of Grant Planning Commission working sessions #1 and #2 to update the Comprehensive Plan. Next meeting scheduled for November 12.
 - September 23 – Town of Oakdale Planning Commission working session #1 to update the Comprehensive Plan. Next meeting scheduled for October 28.
 - September 24 – Town of Wellington Planning Commission to present purpose and process of updating Comprehensive Plan. Town attorney was also present and confirmed state mandate. Planning Commission will recommend Comprehensive Plan development to Town Board.
 - October 2 – Town of Glendale Planning Commission working session #3 to update the Comprehensive Plan. Next meeting scheduled for November 13.
- Basic Ag for Conservationists Training Part 2 - Sept. 24: Attended full-day training session presented by UW-Ext and NRCS at Agricultural Research Center in Arlington.
- Monroe County Census Complete Count Committee meeting - Sept. 26: First meeting was held and facilitated by Lisa Kilmer, U.S. Census Bureau Program Specialist. Purpose and goals of the Census were discussed and barriers, solutions and resources were identified.
- Climate Change Task Force meeting - Oct. 4: Presentations on flooding events and weather monitoring were provided by NWS. I presented demonstration of Weather Underground which is a personal weather station network that provides real-time data from registered personal weather stations.
- Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission – Oct. 9: Updates on Economic Development Authority grants was provided along with an update on the Kendall CBD oil processing facility.
- Compeer Financial Rural Feasibility Study Grant Award \$5000 – Compeer Financial approved a grant award of \$5,000 for the project proposal “Updating Comprehensive Plans for Rural Communities of Monroe County, Wisconsin”. Sponsorship agreement has been signed and funding will be received by end of October.
- U.S. Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration grant application: Project Proposal, “Expanding Collaborative Efforts of the Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group”, was submitted on Sept. 13. The proposal requests \$100,000 in grant funding over a 3-year project period with an in-kind match of \$115,320. The proposal was reviewed and approved by the State committee and a letter of support was provided by the State Forester. The final project application was submitted on Oct. 11 through Grants.gov and will be reviewed by the national committee. Golden Sands RCD also submitted a grant application which includes a proposed demonstration site at the Tri-Creeks property and would provide some funding for County Forester.
- Fishers and Farmers Partnership grant application: Project proposal “Establish Real-Time Weather Monitoring Stations to Improve Success of Conservation Practices in Flood-Prone Areas” was submitted on October 4. This is a program administered through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the National Fish Habitat Partnership. The proposal requests \$49,523 in grant funding over a 2-year project period with an in-kind match of \$85,808.

Meetings / Trainings:

- October 28 – Town of Oakdale Planning Commission working session #2
- October 31 – Tri-Creek Committee Meeting
- November 12 – Town of Grant Planning Commission working session #3
- November 13 – Town of Glendale Planning Commission working session #4

October 15, 2019-- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**

- Completed Streambank Riprap projects, stream crossing and grade stabilization structure.
- Visited potential sites for 2020 construction projects.

Christina Mulder

- **Activities**

- Finishing up construction and seeding and mulching recently completed projects.
- Attended the 2019 Wisconsin Land & Water Technical Tour in Vernon County on Thursday, October 3rd.
- Gathering required information for Jeff Deniger (NRCS Resource Soil Scientist) to investigate potential wetlands for 2020 projects.
- Seeking out potential grade stabilization structure (dam) sites on inquired landowners' properties.
- Beginning design surveys for 2020 projects (waterways, streambank protection, critical area planting, and dams).

Forestry & Parks Report (October) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Timber sale establishment – New Lyme
- DNR dozer projects – road building, road repair
- Sale 152 road repair and seeding
- Native seed collection/dispersal
- Invasive spraying at Meadowview.

Parks:

- Warrens Cranberry Festival
- Winter preparations

Snowmobile:

- Supplemental down payment received, audit underway.

Other:

- Budget meeting with Finance Dept.
- Department Head Meeting
- Active Shooter Training