



Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee

Regular Monthly Meeting – November 12, 2019

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

Committee Members present: N. VanWychen, D. Pierce, A. McCoy, W. Habhegger, and J. Schroeder.

Not Present: K. Raymer (FSA Rep.)

Also Present: B. Micheel (LC), B. Richardson (LC), R. Anderson (Land Use Planner), C. Ziegler (Parks), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), B. Halfman (UW-EXT), J. Goede (4H), M. Mickelson (Forester), M. Modjeski (Conservation Warden), T. Townsell (Ft. McCoy), P. Peterson (APHIS Wildlife Service) and V. Blount (NRCS)

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 October 15th NR & Extension Meeting: The committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by J. Schroeder, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: None

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto: J. Roll reported month of October became a second spring time in terms of field trips. Almost 1,000 students. Partnership with the Sparta High school, working with the freshman class and teaching them on how to create a family tree and how to research for it. Bus tours is \$6 a head. Next year is the 40th anniversary of the Cuban refugee crisis so MCLHR is putting a program on and installing a temporary photography display about the subject. Developed a program for the Bracket School and had Saint Pat's school visit with 32 students in one room. Are selling plat books at the History Room. (Report Attached)

1. **Review/ Approve Monthly Report and Financial Report:** J. Roll reviewed monthly report and financials.

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept the LHR/Grotto report, second by W. Habhegger. Motion carried 5-0-1

County Farm Education Funds: None

Extension Office Business:

1. **Review October Expenditures:** C. Saxe reviewed monthly expenditures.
2. **Family Living Position:** C. Saxe reported that they had 11 candidates apply, reviewed resumes and selected 5 for preliminary interviews. Those interviews will be held by the 21st of November. The final interview for 17th of December.
3. **4H & Youth Development Report:** J. Goede reviewed report. (Report Attached)
4. **Agriculture Report:** Halfman reviewed report. (Report Attached)

Motion made by W. Habhegger to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 5-0-1.

NRCS Report: V. Blount reported No FY20 program announcements have been made yet. Waiting on National Office for authority to administer post-FY2019 2018 Farm Bill programs. NRCS is currently working on CSP payments and contract modifications. Conservation practice [EQIP] construction is

mostly completed for this calendar year. Question from Dave Pierce: Were we given extensions to complete construction this year, given the weather we've had? We have many EQIP contract modifications in progress to grant additional time to participants for construction implementation. Weather this year has been challenging for technicians and contractors, due to wet weather and late spring shortening construction season.

Fort McCoy Update: T. Townsell reported that the next recognition day is May 16th Air forces Day at Fort McCoy, November 23rd is when they open the old main gate. Real ID will make getting on an airplane and military bases easier than keeping the regular one. Rolling into getting into spring installation exercise for a natural disaster. Wants to meet with Bob from LCD to go over some details.

Wildlife Abatement – 2020 Budget Approval: P. Peterson reported the cooperators budget will be \$26,963.53 including salaries, materials, mileage, office overhead, venison donations. (Report Attached) *Motion made by J. Schroeder to accept 2020 Budget, second by D. Peirce. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Review October Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed monthly expenditures. (Report Attached)
2. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel reviewed report. (Report Attached)
3. **Soil & Water Conservationist Report:** B. Richardson reviewed report. (Report Attached)
4. **Land Use Planner Report:** R. Anderson reviewed report. (Report Attached)

DNR Forestry Reports:

1. **Warden:** M. Modjeski reported a local trapper from Tomah trapped a bobcat in a foot hold trap. Bobcat was released unharmed. Court trial for Mose Borntreger for discharge material and fill into wetland set for trial in March. Elk case final pretrial in June of 2020 and 6-person trail in July of 2020. Earnest Haas wetland case has movement as he now has an attorney. Fish kill in Brush Creek by Cashton 1.7 miles on stream where impacted. Species that died were brown trout, brook trout, white sucker, and creek chub. Estimated total number of trout killed 1,445. 3-5 years for the stream to be back to normal. The cause of the fish kill is unknown. A lot of deer feeding and baiting complaints. With the cold weather area farmers are trying to manage their manure. Snow is making it difficult to safely and lawfully spread manure.
2. **Forestry:** M. Mickelson reported WFLGP – few landowners funded in November. Batching date (Nov 1st) but no money to be distributed in February. If ordering trees through the state check with local foresters for availability, supplies are selling out. MCISWG will be holding their annual planning meeting on January 9th at 3p.m. PFAS/PFOA = none in class A foams state uses or supplies to FDs compliant with USFS standards and have never used or currently use or will use with chemicals in it. Tested back to 1980's. October 19th field day at Little Falls Town Hall and Jim and Bernie Arenas property. Smaller turnout than normal, but of the attendees they asked some great questions and received info on funding their endeavors for three different agencies.
3. **Managed Forest Law Program:** M. Mickelson reported new plans are active January 1st as well as any open/closures to MFL property.

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler reported timber sale in New Lyme sale 149 has some road issues posting a road 10 ton. Issues with the highway department with permitting system. DNR dozer projects finishing up in the last week with road building and road repair. Al has been doing boundary work in the town of New Lyme and Lincoln, have done about 5 miles so far. Parks has just wrapped up the leaf removal and winterized the shower building. Working on a GIS project for snowmobile updates. (Report Attached)
2. **Update: Town of Byron: Temporary road use by adjoining landowner:** C. Ziegler reported that

the county is entering into a temporary road use agreement with Riverside Cranberries, LLC (Kurt Rutlin) for hauling sand/fill material for renovating a cranberry marsh in the Town of Byron. The cranberry grower wants to use the road in the winter months; the road is a snowmobile trail also. Kurt agreed to widen the road, put a divider down the middle to keep the truck traffic and snowmobile traffic separated. The snowmobile club will install signs to notify that one of the trails is for truck traffic only.

3. **Review Forestry & Parks October Expenditures:** C. Ziegler mentioned that all the October expenses were normal and asked if there were any questions.

Motion made by W. Habheggar to accept Forestry & Parks report, second by J. Schroeder Motion carried 5-0-1.

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

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Recorder: Arin Gowan



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

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

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

- Provided educational programming for 994 students at the Wegner Grotto, Sparta High School, Brackett School, Norskedalen, and Local History Room
- Revised Brackett School lesson plan after running the program with students a second time
- Attended Wisconsin State History Conference in Lake Geneva
- Designed, shopped for, and fabricated the holiday display, including the transfer and sorting of the holiday village
- Created promotional flyer for said exhibit and begin promotion of such, including eblasting, posting flyers, contacting newspapers, radio stations, etc.
- Finalized the 2019 Annual Fund mailing list and coordinated the printing, stuffing, and mailing of it
- Gave a tour of the Wegner Grotto and Local History Room to adults on a bus tour
- Began contacting potential presenters for the 2020 "History Live" series of public programs
- Coordinated with the curator of a photographic display about the 1980 Cuban Refugee Crisis about LHR borrowing the exhibit in 2020

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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(15)

Christmas Mountain



Featuring
the Joan
Cook North
Pole Village
Collection

*A Spectacular Display of
Over 100 illuminated buildings!*

Holiday Display Opens
November 19, 2019

6:30-8pm Opening Reception

Monroe County Local History Room

200 West Main St., Sparta

Open 9-4:30, Monday-Saturday

Open until 8pm on Nov. 29-30, Dec. 6-7, and 13-14

Facebook.com/MCLHR • 608-269-8680

FREE Admission!

**Open until 8 pm along
with the Kriskindlmarkt:**

- Friday November 29
- Saturday November 30
- Friday December 6
- Saturday December 7
- Friday December 13
- Saturday December 14



Joshua L. Goede

Community Youth Development

The Agent has reached out to the FFA Advisors to find a partner for the Choose Health, Food, Fitness, Fun program. There is not a partner this year yet.

Shooting Sports

The winter schedule for shooting archery and air rifle is coming together. The project letters should go out this week. They plan on putting together some outdoor fun shooting in the summer along with the powder weapon schedule.

Agents 4 Change w/Monroe County Safe Community Coalition

Agents 4 Change wrapped up a major project. The group was able to participate in the Cashton and Brookwood Parent Teacher Conferences. They 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.

A planning meeting was held for the 2020 school year. A steering committee format will be used to determine what will be taught. Then peer teachers will be found to help teach those lessons in the various schools.

Fall Forum

The annual statewide gathering of youth and adult volunteers. Monroe County had 4 youth and an Adult volunteer present. There was also a Monroe County Alumnus who shared a program she learned in Washington DC this summer as a Citizenship Washington Focus Program Lead. The former member presented a session for youth aimed at teaching the skills necessary to have civil discourse.

End of Year

The 2018-2019 year is in the books. We had over 100 members and family members join us in Leon for the 4-H Family Celebration. There was great excitement and many awards given to both members and the volunteers who support our youth in their projects and learning.

Continuing Programs

COMING SOON

- November 9, 4-H Family Celebration. Will be at the Leon Community Center
- County Wide Craft Day in Leon
- Youth Interviews for awards and trips November 21.
- 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 many new volunteers in the system so we will be getting two or three options a month through winter.

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Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Highlights Update October 16, 2019 through November 12, 2019

The Ag Agent presented information on certification requirements and pesticide safety at the Invasive species workshop October 19th near Cataract.

Final soil sampling in the hops trials was done to look at nitrogen in the profile. The results from the trials is being compiled and evaluated. It will be shared with the growers as it is completed and at the annual winter hops conference that will be held in New Glarus in 2020.

The Ag Agents in La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon Counties invited the loan officers who handle ag accounts from the three counties to a round table workshop in Cashton on Oct 25th. Kevin Bernhardt, UW Extension Farm Management Specialist, was guest speaker, and shared information on profitability characteristics of dairy farms, and building resiliency, and Monroe County Ag Agent shared some enterprise projections for beef cattle with the group. The group then had open discussion on what everyone was seeing in the countryside regarding feed supply, and related farm topics. There were 17 participants at the gathering and there was very strong interest from the group to have this group meet +/-3 times a year for the purpose of discussion, sharing etc. We will be doing a follow up survey with them soon.

Ag Agents have been working together to harvest the corn nitrogen plots in the region the past two weeks. The results from the Monroe County location are in the accompanying chart.

2019 Monroe County Corn N plot results

	yield	% moisture	test wt	pop
trt	ave	ave	ave	ave
0	88.20256	0.17	51.3	27878.4
40	141.0644	0.1665	51.775	28749.6
80	166.45	0.1745	53.525	29185.2
120	192.7376	0.18325	53.775	27442.8
160	231.8703	0.18625	55.85	28967.4
200	214.4222	0.187	54.325	26789.4
200pp	181.5144	0.181	55.125	27660.6

The Annual Pest Mgt Update for Ag Professionals was held on November 8th at the Log Cabin at Bangor. Participation was down this year due to ongoing harvest demands keeping participants helping out at the area coops and dealerships.

The Ag Agent has been working with numerous area farmers to help determine feed values, best uses for immature crops and assessing damage to crops fields due to wildlife and weather. A survey on calf management was sent to Monroe County Dairy Farmers and Veterinarians as part of a state wide effort

Tar spot has been positively identified in a corn field in Monroe County.

Work continues on getting some data collection started on the dairy on beef cattle. The Ag Agent is working with Dr. Brenda Boetel to apply for grant funds to help fund these projects. One of the new Animal Science faculty members is also interested in working on these projects with us including some cloud based record keeping tools and use of 3D cameras for predicting animal weight and finish.

Work has begun to update the curriculum for Livestock Emergency Response Training for First Responders. We will conduct 2 to 3 regional trainings per year in the state.

Upcoming Events-

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

December 5th Industrial Hemp Workshop- Melrose and Hillsboro

January 9th Agronomy Update for Ag Professionals- Sparta

January 14-16 Crop Mgt Conference- Madison

January 30-31 Driftless Region Beef Conference- Dubuque

February 21-22 Wisconsin Cattlemen's Winter Conference

Feb 29th Annual Hops Winter Conference

Additional workshops are being developed.

November 12th, 2019 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel - County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Invasive Species Working Group – Held a field day on Saturday, October 19th in the Little Falls Town Hall/Arenas property. Good presentations along with hands on opportunities for landowners. About a dozen participants on Saturday.
- CWD: Flyer updated and dispersed reminding hunters and landowners to be proactive about CWD. Flyer lists dumpster location for deer carcasses, testing sites for CWD, along with donation vendor taking venison for food pantries.
- PL566 Dams – Still waiting for **official** notice from NRCS on funding for the Coon Creek and West Fork of the Kickapoo River Watershed Study. Failure report received along with summary (Handout). October 19th, led 7 grad students from UW-Madison on a tour of the PL566 structures along with an old CC structure on the John Peterson farm. Received bids for the 3 dams that breached to cleanup and stabilize area at the dam and below. Leis Excavating was the only bidder out of three request from contractors.
- Fish Kill – DNR investigated a fish kill on the headwaters of Brush Creek that occurred in early October after a rain event. Manure management issues from the East Town Dairy (CAFO) led to more than 1,000 dead trout in this event. DNR completed follow up assessment & inventory of dead fish on Monday, October 7th and handed over findings to the Dept. of Justice. Waiting for DNR media release and DOJ response.
- Climate Change Task Force – 4 members of the Climate Change Task Force (Tina, R. Luethe, J. Schroeder, & myself) participated in Wisconsin Public Radio segment called Newsmakers on Tuesday, October 29th. CCTF is getting the word out through various media sources. Governor, Tony Evers recently established a CCTF for Wisconsin.
- Sustainability Institute Annual Conference – Gave a presentation focusing on Monroe County success stories in the La Crosse River Watershed. Featured stream restoration, buffer strips, public access, etc.
- Stewardship Awards – Completing interviews of award winners, done footage, pictures are being compiled for awards banquet. Tickets available (Handout)
- Trees Sales Program – Trees & Shrubs ordered from nurseries and ready for sale (Handout).

Meeting Schedule:

- November 13th – Climate Change Task Force Meeting
- November 14th – Grant Interview
- November 22nd – NACD Interview with Jack Herricks (Soil Health)
- December 10th – Natural Resource & Extension Committee

November 2019 - Land Use Planner's Report

Roxie Anderson

Activities:

- Comprehensive Plans - Summary of activities:
 - Town of Grant Planning Commission working sessions #3 to update the Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for November 12.
 - Town of Glendale Planning Commission working session #4 to update the Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for November 13
 - Town of Oakdale Planning Commission working session #2 to update the Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for November 25.
- Climate Change Task Force: Met with Darlene, Bob and Ron Luethe, to present costs and specifications of various weather stations and stream sensors. We narrowed down selection and I will prepare presentation for CCTF meeting scheduled for Nov. 13. I also presented the Iowa Watershed Approach project which is addressing flooding issues at a State-level. I have spoken with their outreach coordinator and they are willing to send a representative to talk about their project strategies and solutions to our CCTF.
- Dept. of Transportation Multi-modal Local Supplement (MLS) applications – Towns of Portland and Sparta have requested assistance on putting together applications requesting MLS funding for road improvement and bridge replacement projects. Minimum funding request is \$50,000. Applications are due December 6. I will coordinate with David Ohnstad to review applications and provide feedback.
- U.S. Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration grant application: The project proposal, “Expanding Collaborative Efforts of the Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group”, did not move forward through national selection committee due to the small scale of the project.
- Fishers and Farmers Partnership grant selection committee interview – Nov. 14: Bob and I will meet with the selection committee to provide further information about the project proposal “Establish Real-Time Weather Monitoring Stations to Improve Success of Conservation Practices in Flood-Prone Areas” that 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.
- Tri Creek Committee Meeting - Oct. 31: The vision statement, plan outline, and management goals and objectives have been drafted. The next step is to start filling in the plan outline and determine writing assignments. It was also discussed that a web page should be dedicated to Tri-Creek Property to serve as a repository for plan document and accompanying data resources.
- Conditional Use Permit application for proposed campground: Reviewed and submitted comments to Zoning Department on proposed campground located in Town of Sparta. Comments pertained to driveway access located in floodplain, recreational access to river, and stormwater run-off and soil erosion concerns.

Meetings / Trainings:

- November 12 – Town of Grant Planning Commission working session #3
- November 13 – Climate Change Task Force
- November 13 – Town of Glendale Planning Commission working session #4
- November 25 – Town of Oakdale working session #2
- November 21 – Wisconsin Towns Association Monroe County Unit meeting
- December 10 – Town of Grant Planning Commission working session #4

November 12, 2019-- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**

- Completed manure storage expansion and pipe replacement on an existing grade stabilization structure.
- Met with an industrial sand mine producer to discuss changes to their current reclamation plan.
- Setting up appointments with prospective landowners for 2020 projects.

Christina Mulder

- **Technician Work**

- Completed the construction of a grade stabilization structure (dam) for Steve Evans in Little Falls Township.
- Surveying 2020 dam sites with GPS and Total Station equipment. Also gathering soil samples to see if the sites have enough clay material to build a structure. As long as these two steps are done before the ground freezes, the engineering and design portion can be done in office over winter.

- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

- The CREP program is a partnership between the USDA (feds), DATCP (state), and LCDs (county). It is the County LCDs who are responsible for doing the state paperwork and make sure the incentives get paid to the contract holders.
- FSA enrolled 15 new CREP contracts in the October 2019 sign up!
- As of right now, it appears there will be six 15-Year Agreements and nine Perpetual Easements.
- I have begun the enrollment paperwork for the 15-Year Agreement contract holders.
- Perpetual Easement contract holders will need to be GPSed and staked out prior to easement paperwork.

- **Land Stewardship Awards**

- Began interviewing award winners and testimonials with Bob.

November 12, 2019-- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

- **Education & Outreach**

- In October, I helped out with programming at the Sparta School Forest. The Sparta 5th grade had 200 students that came to the Forest for a half-day field day. There were 4 stations the students rotated between: Native American Culture, Environmental Awareness Hiking, Forest Activities, & Tips for Hiking in Nature. I helped with the Environmental Awareness Hiking where I taught the students about invasive species, famous naturalist Aldo Leopold, wildlife markings, and Wisconsin's forestry history.



Forestry & Parks Report (November) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Sale 149 – New Lyme
- Road Issues: Highway Dept. and Townships
- DNR dozer projects – road building, road repair
- Boundary work – New Lyme, Lincoln – 4.75 miles
- Invasive spraying New Lyme

Parks:

- Leaf removal
- Winter preparations

Snowmobile:

-

Other:

- Budget meeting with Finance Committee
- Department Head Meeting
- CWD Task Force Meeting