



Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee

Regular Monthly Meeting – December 10th, 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. K. Raymer (FSA Rep.)

Not Present: N/A

Also Present: B. Micheel (LC), B. Richardson (LC), R. Anderson (Land Use Planner), A. Young (Deke Slayton, Museum), C. Ziegler (Parks), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), B. Halfman (UW-EXT), J. Goede (4H), M. Mickelson (Forester), and 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 November 12th NR & Extension Meeting: The committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by D. Pierce, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: A. Young reported that in the month of October they had Star Wars reads day. It consisted of costume contest, crafts and snacks. They also participated in trick or treat street at the Boys and Girls Club. In November, Mr. Science did a presentation. They participated in the Fort McCoy Tree Lighting, and the Holiday Parade. She also reported that the carpet will be replaced in the main gallery. There will also be a Winter Break Craft Day on December 27th 10am-1pm.

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto: J. Roll reviewed report. (Report Attached)

1. **Review/Approve Monthly Report and Financial Report:** J. Roll reviewed monthly report and financials.
2. **Discuss/Approved Museum Building lighting project expense:** J. Roll reviewed lighting project expense.

Motion made by W. Habhegger to accept the Lighting Expense, second by D. Pierce. 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 five candidates are now down to three. The final interviews are on December 17th.
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: None

Kevin Raymer arrived 9:23

Fort McCoy Update: T. Townsell reported remodeled gates are now open. Deer status are about down 27% this year, right in line with the state. Fort McCoy reduced the number of permits and bonus tags.

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Review November Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed monthly expenditures.
2. **Line Item Transfer – Review/Approve**

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept the Line Transfer, second by W. Habheggar. Motion carried 6-0-0

3. **Office Lease Renewal – Review/Approve**

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept the Office Lease, second by W. Habheggar. Motion carried 6-0-0

4. **Multi-Discharge Variance (MDV) Participation in 2020 – Review/Approve**

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept the MDV, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 6-0-0

5. **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Boundary Expansion – Review/Approve**

Motion made by A. McCoy to accept the Boundary Expansion, second by W. Habheggar. Motion carried 6-0-0

6. **School Woods Resolution (Waive - Harvest Proceeds Requirement) – Review/Approve**

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept the School Wood Waive, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 6-0-0

7. **County Conservatoinist Report:** B. Micheel reviewed report. (Report Attached)
8. **Soil & Water Conservatoinist Report:** B. Richardson reviewed report. (Report Attached)
9. **Land Use Planner Report:** R. Anderson reviewed report. (Report Attached)

DNR Forestry Reports:

1. **Warden:** None
3. **Forestry:** M. Mickelson reported DNR tree program is getting a lot of sold out species. It is a fairly quiet time of year, lots of sale write ups and indoor paperwork. Invasive species meeting at Jakes Northwood's on January 9th at 3pm. I will also be stepping down as chair person.
4. **Managed Forest Law Program:** None

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler reported active sale, Lamberts are cutting job in New Lyme. Boundary work is done. Started to make updates to the 15 year County Forest Plan. STMC supplemental check snowmobile maintenance for 2018/2019 year will show up in next month report. (Report Attached)
2. **Review Forestry & Parks October Expenditures:** C. Ziegler mentioned that all the November expenses were normal and asked if there were any questions.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 14th, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Recorder: Arin Gowan

Create
Take-Home
Crafts!

**Winter Break
Craft Day**
At the
Museums

Free
Family
Fun!

Friday, December 27th, 2019, 10am—1pm

Monroe Co. Local History Room & Deke Slayton Space & Bicycle Museum

200 West Main St., Sparta; 608-269-8680; www.Facebook.com/MCLHR

Suggested Ages: 4-10 yrs. but ALL are welcome; Free program

Friday, December 27th, Anytime from 10am-1pm



Create "Penguin Hats," "Snowperson Wreaths,"
"Elephant Puppets," "Paper Houses," and more.



You bring the creativity; we'll provide the art supplies.



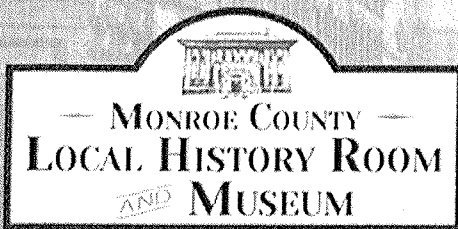
Free admission to the Museums and for the craft activities.



Get out of the house and have some **indoor fun** at the
Museums! K-4th grade suggested but ALL are welcome.

Call 608-269-8680 or visit www.Facebook.com/MCLHR to learn more.

*Also check out the "Christmas Mountain" North Pole Village Display
now up at the Monroe County Local History Room & Museum.*



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

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

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

- Processed donations to the 2019 Annual Fund (entered donation amounts, generated receipts for each donor, sent thank you letters)
- Fabricated Christmas Village display layout, installed village pieces, and security rope
- Promoted Open House for the Christmas display (sent out press releases; did interviews with newspapers); planned for and hosted said open house
- Installed the holiday lights on the museum lawn
- Attended WFM Annual Museum Conference in Horicon
- Generated two pages of content for the MCHS newsletter
- Began promoting Winter Craft Day at the Museums
- Fabricated a second donation box to hopefully generate more visitor contributions
- Attended county Budget Hearing
- Planned for and hosted Mini-Regional meeting of Southwest WI historical agencies
- Continued planning for the 2020 "History Live" series of public programs, solidifying presenters, overseeing the creation of a promotional flyer
- Coordinated with the curator of a photographic display about the 1980 Cuban Refugee Crisis about LHR borrowing the exhibit in 2020 and began planning the space for it

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 Walterman: 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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Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Highlights Update November 13, 2019 through December 10, 2019

The Ag Agent serves as a member of the Agrability Program's advisory committee, and attended their annual committee meeting on November 13th in Madison. One outcome of this is working towards improving communications and awareness of Agrability with County Veterans Service's officers.

The Ag Agent worked with the two Cashton H.S. students who worked on summer projects with UW Extension to provide final information for their papers.

The annual Soil and Water Update for Ag Professionals was held in Sparta on December 4th. There were 30 agronomy professionals from the area in attendance at the workshop. Topics at the workshop included:

Comparing tillage practices and nitrogen rates for corn: early corn development and yield impacts

- Evaluating corn N management decisions
- Profitability of P & K fertilization of no-till corn and soybean
- Badger Ag. Tech, Lab Update: Planter aftermarket closing wheels
- Wheel traffic effects on alfalfa
- Wisconsin nutrient management update
- Cover crops, fall manure, and nutrient management
- Biological indicators of soil health

Industrial Hemp workshops were held in Melrose and Hillsboro on December 5th. Topics covered included producing hemp for fiber and general oil seeds, producing hemp for CDB oil, and an update from DATCP on rules and regulations for the 2020 growing season. There were 115 participants between the two locations, about 40 at Melrose and 75 at Hillsboro.

The Ag Agent attended the Monroe County DHIA Board meeting and Monroe County Farm Bureau Board Meeting.

The Ag Agent is working with neighboring agents on finalizing the schedule of winter workshops for our area.

Upcoming Events-

January 9th Agronomy Update for Ag Professionals- Sparta

January 14-16 Crop Mgt Conference- Madison

January 22-23 Cranberry School

January 29th Farm Transfer Workshop- St. Joseph

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.

December 10th, 2019 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel - County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Invasive Species Management Cost Sharing – 3 Landowners received cost sharing (\$1,320) in 2019 to address invasive species mgt. (Chris Barlow, Howard Garves & John Komiskey). 5 landowners signed up for assistance in 2020.
- CWD: 2019 test results expanding around Monroe County.
- PL566 Dams – Leis Excavating working on stabilizing breached dams, CC23 (Blihovde) and CC29 (Korn) completed. Luckason Dam is the last one remaining.
- Stewardship Awards – Last meeting at Jakes discussed promotion, raffles and remaining items to complete before the banquet.
- Trees Sales Program – Trees & shrubs ordered from nurseries and ready for sale (Handout).
- Vehicle Replacement – Plan to replace 2009 - F150 with the 2020 vehicle budget.
- Soil Health – NACD Interview with Jack Herricks, 25 farmers picked around the country. Recorded testimonials and data on their practices used in raising crops.

Meeting Schedule:

- December 11th – Climate Change Task Force Meeting
- December 12-13th – WI Land & Water Technical & County Conservationist meeting
- January 9th – Invasive Species Working Group annual planning meeting
- January 14th - Natural Resource & Extension Committee

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

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**

- Surveying projects for 2020. 11 projects designed for next year, 4 more need to be surveyed/designed.
- Developed 2019 Nonmetallic Mining Annual Report and 2020 Fee Assessment. Will be mailed in late Dec. Payments due by 1/31/20.
- Contacted 2 landowners who were violating state runoff rules. One was referred to DNR for enforcement, waiting on a reply from the other one.

Christina Mulder

- **Technician Work**

- 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.
- Attended the Soil, Water & Nutrient Management Meeting hosted by UW Extension on Wednesday, December 4th.

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

- 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**

- Committee meeting held on Wednesday, December 4th to plan the upcoming 2019 Land Stewardship Awards Banquet

December 2019 - Land Use Planner's Report

Roxie Anderson

Activities:

- Comprehensive Plans - Summary of activities:
 - Met with Town of Grant Planning Commission on Nov. 12 for working sessions #3.
 - Met with Town of Glendale Planning Commission on Nov. 13 for working session #4.
 - Met with Town of Oakdale Planning Commission on Nov. 25 for working session #3.
 - Met with Town of Little Falls Planning Commission on Dec. 4 to provide community data and review public survey.
 - Met with Town of Wellington Planning Commission on Dec. 5 to answer questions about Comprehensive Plan Development process and requirements.
- Climate Change Task Force: Preparation for Dec. 11 meeting. A representative from Iowa Flood Center will give a presentation on Iowa Watershed Approach and will be available to answer questions after presentation. State and County agency representatives, politicians, and local media have been invited to attend meeting.
- Complete Census Count Committee – Attended meeting on Nov. 21. The Census Bureau representative provided updates on the hiring process and outreach efforts. I will coordinate with representative to ensure she attends the next Wisconsin Towns Association meeting in February and also will help with outreach to Town Boards.
- Wisconsin Towns Association – Attended meeting on Nov. 21. Various state politicians/representatives; David Ohnstad, Highway Commissioner; and Bob Micheel provided updates.
- Dept. of Transportation Multi-modal Local Supplement (MLS) applications – Completed and submitted three applications for the Town of Portland (2) and Town of Sparta (1) on Dec. 6. Town of Portland applied for a bridge replacement project for \$467,225 and culvert and road improvements for \$126,600. Town of Sparta applied for road reconstruction of Iband Ave. for \$341,760.
- Fishers and Farmers Partnership grant update: Bob and I presented the project proposal “Establish Real-Time Weather Monitoring Stations to Improve Success of Conservation Practices in Flood-Prone Areas” to the selection committee and answered questions. Our project was ranked in the middle of the pack (7 projects total) and may possibly receive some funding. Funding amounts will be determined in 2020. 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:

- December 10 – Town of Grant Planning Commission working session #4
- December 11 – Climate Change Task Force Meeting
- December 18 – Town of Glendale Planning Commission working Session #5
- December 30 – Town of Oakdale Planning Commission working Session #3

Forestry & Parks Report (December) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Sale 153 – New Lyme
- Boundary work – New Lyme, Lincoln – 3.75 miles
- Updates: 15 Year County Forest Plan

Parks:

- Update Safety Binders

Snowmobile:

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Other:

- STMC Groomer Operator meeting
- Department Head Meeting