

Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting – February 15, 2018
Monroe County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

Committee Members present: N. VanWychen, D. Pierce, M. Halverson, J. Schroeder, M. Cook, and D. Powell
Also Present: C. Ziegler (Forestry), B. Micheel (LC), C. Mulder (LC), B. Richardson (LC), M. Komiskey (NRCS), J. Roll (Hist), E. Eggert (UW-EXT), J. Goede(UW-EXT), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), Ron Luethe (Town of Ridgeville Supervisor), M. Modjeski (DNR Warden), P. Peterson (Wildlife Specialist), and J. Benes (Golden Sands RC&D)

The meeting notice was posted in compliance with the open meeting law.

Call to Order: Chair VanWychen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Public Comment Period: None

Approve Minutes from the January 9th NR & Extension Meeting: The committee reviewed the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by M. Cook, seconded by D. Pierce. Motion carried 6-0.

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: None

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto: J. Roll reviewed January expenditures and presented report to the committee (attached). J. Roll asked for feedback from the committee about renting heated storage space from Handishop Industries of Tomah. The space would house county museum collections not on display. There would be an upfront cost to construct a secure storage facility within Handishop's heated warehouse and then a monthly rental cost of \$75 monthly (\$.25 sq. ft.) of which one third would be paid for by the Monroe County Historical Society. The Local History Room would pay for the other 2/3 of the construction cost and monthly rent. The Committee gave approval for Roll to pursue.

1. **Discuss/Approve Resolution for Increasing Museum Services Associate's Hours:** J. Roll presented a Resolution to increase the Museum Services Associates hours from 28 to 30. *J. Schroeder made a motion to approve the Resolution to increase the Museum Services Associates hours from 28 to 30, seconded by D. Pierce. Motion carried 6-0.*
2. **Discuss/Approve Local History Room Budget Adjustment:** J. Roll presented a budget adjustment to reimburse Local History Salaries from Local History Room Trust to pay for on call hours needed to cover public programming and community outreach initiatives. *A motion was made by D. Pierce to approve the budget adjustment for \$8,227.10 as presented, seconded by M. Halverson. Motion carried 6-0.*

Dawn Powell arrived as the FSA Representative replacement for Don Hall. Dawn gave an introduction which proceeded with the Committee and others present as well.

Wildlife Damage Program: Phil Peterson gave a brief overview of the program to the committee. The following 2017 program requirements were addressed as follows.

1. **90% Harvest Date Establishment:** *D. Pierce made a motion to approve December 10th as the harvest date, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 6-0.*
2. **Crop Price Establishment:** P. Peterson discussed the price for corn & soybeans. *D. Pierce made a motion to approve the price of \$3.24 bu. for corn and \$8.94 bu. for soybeans, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 6-0.*
3. **Damage Claim Approval/Denial:** P. Peterson brought three deer damage claims with a \$500 deductible to the Committee for approval. Denial letters will be mailed to Jeff Schneider and Mark Drake.
 - A. Bob Sutton- claim for \$539.30. *Motion by J. Schroeder to approve, seconded by M. Cook. Motion carried 6-0.*
 - B. Jeff Snider- claim for \$1,371.01 for denial based on satisfying program requirements to fill harvest tags. *Motion by M. Halverson to approve denial, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 6-0.*

- C. Mark Drake- claim for \$1,784.95 for denial based on satisfying program requirements to fill harvest tags. *Motion by M. Halverson to approve denial, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 6-0.*

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Golden Sands RC&D Presentation:** J. Benes gave a presentation and overview of their nonprofit organization and the projects available to the private landowners. Services include assisting land owners with conservation planning, training on the different issues such as dealing with invasives, EAB, etc. Benes provided a couple of handouts (2016 Highlights, Woods & Wildlife for Today & Tomorrow, and a listing of projects available). Benes announced there are two Monroe County vacancies needing to be filled on the Council.

NRCS moved up as Komiskey had other obligations to attend.

NRCS Report: M. Komiskey gave her report stating NRCS is currently processing obligations over \$500,000 in contracts through the EQIP program to install conservation practices, such as streambank projects, dams and other soil conservation practices. Komiskey stated Monroe/La Crosse counties have a goal of 6,900 acres of applications for CSP- she noted news releases have been sent to the media and direct mailing went out to some of the Managed Forest Law landowners. CSP application deadline is March 2, 2018 and the requirement states must be the producer- if not the owner, must have a 5 year rental agreement, meet conservation screening and choose enhancements to implement a 5 year contract. Komiskey also spoke of the MRBI-Kickapoo sub watersheds in Monroe County (Moore Creek, Sleighton Creek, Knapp Creek-West Fork and Plum Run). May 18th is the deadline for applications for this funding opportunity for practices that stop soil and phosphorus from entering surface water.

Land Conservation Department Cont.>

2. **Tri-Creek Property Sale Update:** B. Micheel gave an update regarding the sale of the Tri Creek property and the implications to the public concerning access to the lake. Questions followed.
3. **Review January Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed expenditures. (report attached).
4. **Budget Adjustment-Review/Approve:** (Micheel): Micheel presented a budget adjustment of \$8,867 to the Committee to dewater two structures and clean out pond drains from the 2017 flood damage on two PI 566 dams in Portland Twps. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve the budget adjustment of \$8,867 as presented, seconded by M. Halverson. Motion carried 6-0.*
5. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel presented department report to the committee (attached). Micheel stated the Monroe County Stewardship Awards Banquet was a success and announced the next Banquet would be held on Jan 26, 2019. Micheel noted 38 tree order sales amounting to \$3,500. Handed out tree sales order forms to the committee. Micheel reported that the Citizen and Technical Committee Meeting coming up on Mar 7th will have presentations in the morning and feedback in the afternoon concerning Monroe County Natural Resource Issues. Bob also reported there were over 20 people at the Invasive Species meeting held at the Tomah Ranger Station. Micheel mentioned to the committee to be aware of the State has two bills in the news regarding wetlands and CAFO. Micheel reported that Ron Luethe is the chair of the Tri Creek Land Use Committee and discussed planning progress.
6. **Soil & Water Conservationist Reports:** C. Mulder gave a brief overview of the Farmland Preservation Program and reported she is in the process of creating Conservation Plans for FP participants. Mulder reported Gerald and Ann Klinkner are re-enrolling 241 acres. B. Richardson reported he is designing remaining projects for 2018. Richardson announced this is the first time a poster contest winner has advanced to the State competition. Payton Jones Gr 7-9 judging will occur during the WLWCA annual conference March 14-16th. Richardson also reported that all 2018 annual Nonmetallic Mining fees of \$21,200 have been received of which \$17,200 Monroe County share and \$4,020 is DNR share. Out of 40 permitted quarries- 30 are active. (Reports attached).

DNR Reports:

1. **Private Lands:** None
2. **Warden:** M. Modjeski gave a brief update on the State hiring of limited term employees (LTE Conservation Wardens) to assist with law enforcement at parks and forestry properties. Modjeski stated that Conservation Warden Patrick Seybert will be starting in April and will be responsible for the East half of Monroe County.
3. **MFL:** None

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler presented his department report (attached). Ziegler noted having issues with the snowmobile agreements with Ft. McCoy.
2. **Review/Approve Park Water Heater:** C. Ziegler explained some quotes that he collected for a replacement water heater, and will gather more quotes, etc., regarding replacing the 22 year old Commercial Electric Water heater in the shower building at McMullen Park.
3. **Review/Approve Repurpose of Park funds & Park Budget Adjustment:** No adjustment at this time
4. **Discussion: Gerrard Realty Corp land for Sale:** C. Ziegler informed the Committee that he received a call from a realtor, concerning property for sale in the Town of New Lyme, NW quarter of section 28. The Committee discussed purchasing the 160 acre parcel and adding it to the County Forest. Committee asked Ziegler to perform more research and report back.
5. **Review Forestry & Parks Expenditures:** C. Ziegler reviewed the January monthly expenditures.

County Farm Education Funds – Monroe County Ag Society for Building Expansion Project:

Extension Office Business:

1. **Review of January Expenditures**
2. **4H & Youth Development Report** (Goede) – report attached.
3. **Family Living Report** (Eggert) –report attached.
4. **Agriculture Report** (Saxe) – presented B. Halfman’s report in his absence. -report attached.
*Motion made by D. Pierce to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, seconded by M. Halverson.
Motion carried 6-0.*

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Motion to adjourn: *was made at 11:50 a.m. by M. Cook, second by M. Halverson. Motion carried, 6-0.*

Recorder: Connie Holzl

February 15, 2018 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel- County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Monroe County Stewardship Awards Banquet – A success with 151 meals sold, great enthusiasm, and positive feedback. A few items to be addressed by the Land Stewardship Awards Committee for next year. Seeking nomination for the January 26, 2018 banquet. Forward award winners to state competition.
- Tree Sales – 38 orders = \$3,500
- Tri-Creek Land Use Committee Meeting: Establishing goals for the property and finalizing resource inventory.
- Land & Water Plan Update – Citizen Advisory and Technical Committee meetings upcoming. Staff completing resource inventory and revisiting past water quality concerns.
- Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group – Last meeting held at the Tomah Ranger Station; excellent participation by landowners and agency reps. Plan to move next meeting to the county board assembly room.
- Other: Sparta Well-shed High (N); Residential home complaints related to water mgt.; Finalized reimbursement request for staff and NOD projects; attended the driftless symposium.

Meeting Schedule:

- February 20th – Citizen Advisory Committee
- February 28th – Valley Stewardship Network
- March 13th – Natural Resource & Extension Committee
- March 14-16th – Wisconsin Land & Water Conference

MONROE COUNTY

Notice of Budgetary Adjustment

Unanticipated Revenue or Expense Increase or Decrease Not Budgeted

Date: February 9, 2018
 Department: Land Conservation
 Amount: \$8,867.00
 Budget Year Amended: 2017

Source of Increase / Decrease and affect on Program:
 (If needed attached separate brief explanation.)

Increase cost, to address the July 2017 flood damage on two PL566 structures (dams) in Portland Township. Cost to dewater two structures and clean out pond drains exceeded established budget. FEMA dollars along with LCD revenue & un-spent budget in 2017, will be used to cover expenses. Increased landowner participation in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in 2017 caused recording fee overages. NO ADDITIONAL LEVI DOLLARS REQUESTED.

Revenue Budget Lines Amended:

Org	Object	Project	Account Name	Current Budget	Budget Adjustment	Final Budget
16940000	468200		NONMETALLIC MINING	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 18,100.00
16941000	432107		FEDERAL AID-LAND CONS.	\$ -	\$ 6,767.00	\$ 6,767.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
Total Adjustment					\$ 8,867.00	

Expenditure Budget Lines Amended:

Org	Object	Project	Account Name	Current Budget	Budget Adjustment	Final Budget
16940000	524510		LC VEHICLE OPS & MAINT.	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (1,826.00)	\$ 3,174.00
16943000	534005		LCD OPERATING EXPENSE	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 374.00	\$ 6,374.00
16941000	534005		PL 566 STRUCTURES	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 3,552.00	\$ 9,052.00
16941000	534005		PL 566 STRUCTURES-FEMA	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,767.00	\$ 12,267.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
Total Adjustment					\$ 8,867.00	

Department Head Approval: _____

Date Approved by Committee of Jurisdiction: _____

Following this approval please forward to the County Clerk's Office.

Date Approved by Finance Committee: _____

Date Approved by County Board: _____

Per WI Stats 65.90(5)(a) must be authorized by a vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the governing body.

Date of publication of Class 1 notice of budget amendment: _____

Budget Adjustment

Purpose

To comply with State Statue 65.90 (5)

Policy

A budget adjustment should be made when increasing /(decreasing) both your revenue budget and expenditure budget or when requesting funds from an area of the budget outside it's originally budgeted department. These changes come from new grants or changes in grant monies, transfers from sources in the county outside a department's original budget, etc. No budget line item should exceed the adopted budget at any time during a fiscal year.

Procedure

To initiate a budget adjustment, the department head shall notice the review, discussion & action of this completed & signed form on the next monthly meeting agenda of their committee of jurisdiction. If the Budgetary Adjustment is approved by the committee of jurisdiction the signed copy of this form along with a copy of the meeting minutes shall be forward to the County Clerk to be noticed on the Finance Committee agenda for review, discussion & action.

Upon Finance Committee aproval the signed Budgetary Adjustment form shall be forwarded to the County Clerk to be notice on the County Board agenda for review, discussion and action.

Per WI Stats 65.90(5)(a) the Budgetary Adjustment must be authorized by a vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the County Board.

A department representative must be available at each meeting to address any questions or concerns that may arise during review and discussion.

February 15, 2018 -- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Christina Mulder

- **Activities**
 - Creating Conservation Plans for Farmland Preservation participants
 - Streambank inventory on program targeted areas such as Moore Creek and its tributaries in Ridgeville and Sheldon
- **Meetings Attended**
 - Land Stewardship Awards Banquet Jan 27
 - Ag Advisory Committee Meeting Jan 30
 - Driftless Area Symposium Feb 5-6
 - Stewardship Award Committee Meeting Feb 8

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**
 - Designing remaining projects for 2018.
 - Poster Contest – Payton Jones Gr 7-9 advanced to the state competition. Judging will occur during the WLWCA annual conference March 14-16th.
- **Nonmetallic Mining**
 - All 2018 Annual Fees in the amount of **\$21,220** have been received.
\$17,200 is the Monroe County share.
\$4020 is the DNR share.
 - Will be submitting Annual Report to DNR along with DNR share by 2/28.
 - **40 Permitted Quarries** encompassing **1484 acres**.

Forestry & Parks Report (February) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Timber Sale Administration
 - 143
 - 145
 - Close out 138 & 147
- Timber sale set up & pre-work
 - 2018 Bid Packet Preparation
- Recon updates
 - Post sale updates
 - Past due stands
 - Forest Metrix Training
- Boundary establishment
- 2014-16 County Forest Audit
- Group met Leica rep to review new GPS equipment
- Invasive Species Meeting

Parks:

- Dept Head Meeting – financial policy, personnel updates, etc.

Snowmobile:

- ARCGIS mapping updates (Fort McCoy Agreement)

Gerrard Realty Corp Property

List Price: \$500,000.00

160 acres m/l

2017 taxes: \$212.80

Enrolled in Managed Forest Law Program (Closed) until 2042.

High Capacity Well located on the property

Location:

Town of New Lyme, Section 28, NW ¼

Approx. 0.7 miles west of North Impact Area

Fort McCoy supports the acquisition; it's located within the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB)

Town of New Lyme supports County Acquisition of Gerrard Parcel due to close proximity to North Impact Area

Forest Composition:

26 year old red pine and white pine

140 acres well stocked (3600 tons of pine pulp)

12 acres poorly stocked (150 tons of pine pulp)

8 acres grass/fire lanes/Road Right of Way

Approximate Timber Value: \$56,000

First thinning in 2017

Potential Funding Options:

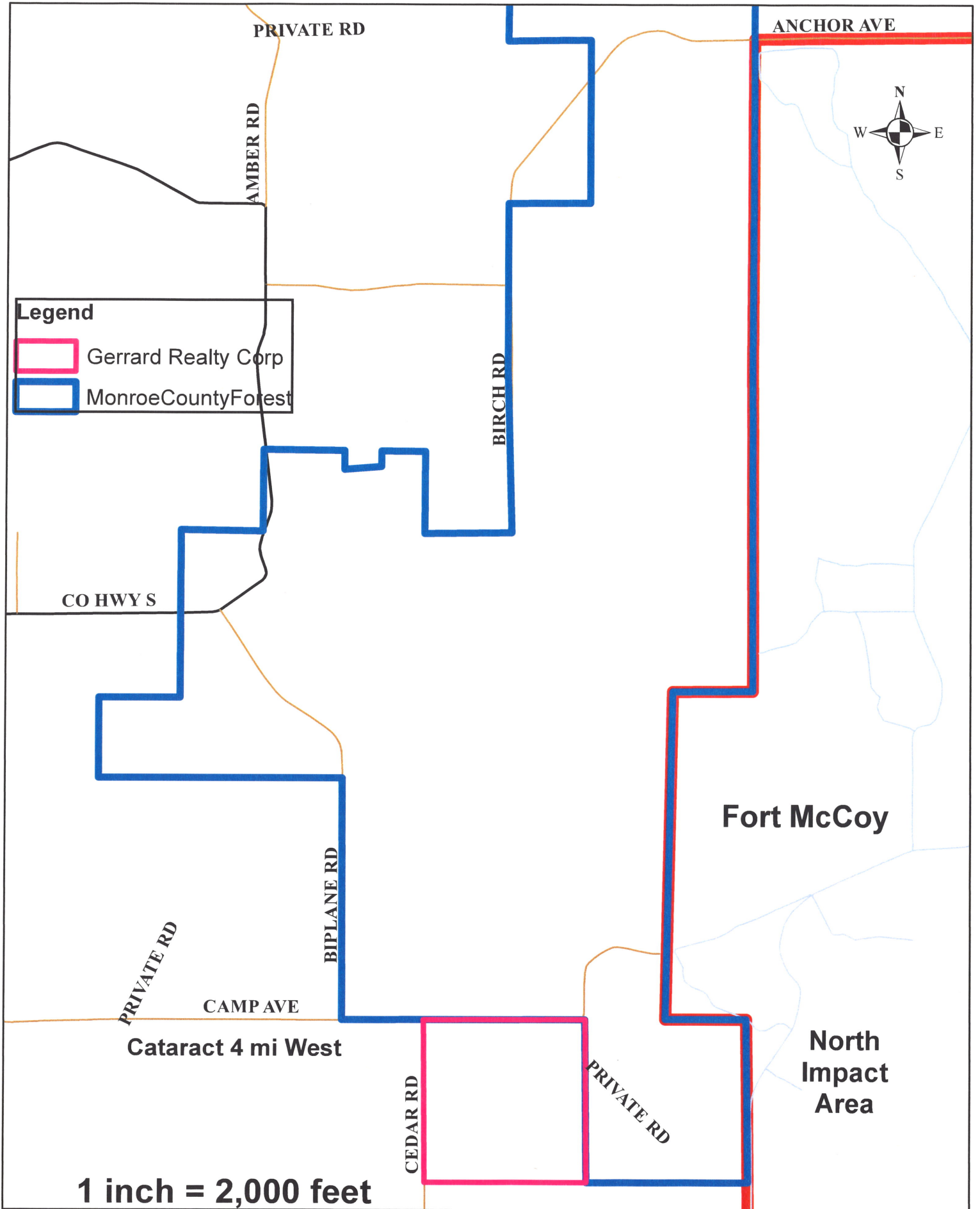
Forestry Maintenance and Land Acquisition Fund (non-lapsing): \$49,254.58

Forest Stewardship Grant: up to half of purchase price

Interest Free Project Loan: paid back at 20% of annual timber sale revenue




ATC Mitigation Money: a portion of the \$290,000

Gerrard Realty Corp



Gerrard Realty Corp

Legend

-  Gerrard Realty Corp
-  monroe_gis.SDELOAD.FP_MonroeCountyForest
-  C. F. rds









*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

LHR Director / County Historian's Report, January 2018 Submitted by Jarrod Roll

Highlighted Projects and Activities by Jarrod and Team

- Continued creating “Monroe County A-Z” exhibit, focusing on generating content: researching and writing text, designing exhibit elements, locating and transferring images; tweaking interactives; had planning meeting with Pica Grove; continued with the fundraising process, following up with potential donors and sending thank you letters to those who contributed
- Took down 1950s Christmas display: removed artifacts from display, deconstructed stage, returned borrowed items to lenders and artifacts to storage locations, hauled building materials away, and reinstalled the military exhibit
- Processed donations to the 2017 Annual Fund, including tracking donation amounts, issuing thank you letters and donation receipts
- Investigated potential offsite storage location for LHR collections; consulted with State Historical Society conservator about storage environments
- Attended Wisconsin Federation of Museums bimonthly board meeting in Madison
- Worked with Monroe County I.S. Department to install and network new computers
- Generated five pages of contact for the MCHS newsletter
- Finalized presenter line up and dates of 2018 “History-Live” public programs; began promoting the lectures through press releases and flyers
- Began generating year-end reports and statistics for Audience Served, number of students served, LHR income and expenses
- Continued planning upcoming exhibit about Ft. McCoy archaeology with the archaeologists, discussing content and design
- Regular tasks: provided research assistance to the public (via email, telephone, mail, and in person patrons); provided customer service to museum visitors; assigned storage locations, cataloged, and photographed artifacts removed from displays and those recently donated; balanced LHR financial books and draft monthly report; paid bills through the county finance system; processed new donation offerings; conferred with Alli Karrels about museum issues and activities; attended Ag/Extension meeting.

In addition to the projects listed above, I supervise the following volunteer and support staff:

- Agnes Jenkins: indexing newspapers
- Dennis Burek: photo scanning projects; artifact cataloging; assist with clerical duties
- Barb Reedich: researching Monroe County in WWI; answer research requests; assist with exhibits
- Hannah Scholze (Museum Services Associate): runs Facebook; teaches students; assists with research, exhibits, marketing, and most projects listed above, etc.
- John Lasko: represents and promotes LHR at public events and in the region
- Jane Schmidt: indexing newspapers
- Jim Ebert: indexing newspapers
- Sandy Waltermann: creating a master index of Monroe County graduates
- Adam Balz: indexing cemetery records; writing County School histories; writing disaster articles
- Marilyn Beall: indexing the special Federal Census Schedules
- Barb Reisinger: indexing eighth grade graduation records
- Sara Oostick: cataloging LHR artifacts currently on display in Past Perfect

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

MONROE COUNTY

Notice of Budgetary Adjustment

Unanticipated Revenue or Expense Increase or Decrease Not Budgeted

Date: February 1, 2018
 Department: Local History Room
 Amount: \$8,227.10
 Budget Year Amended: 2017

Source of Increase / Decrease and affect on Program:
 (If needed attached separate brief explanation.)

Reimburse Local History Room Salaries from Local History Room Trust
to pay for additional On-Call hours needed to cover public
programming and community outreach initiatives

Revenue Budget Lines Amended:

Org	Object	Project	Account Name	Current Budget	Budget Adjustment	Final Budget
85120000	485000	LHR10	LOCAL HISTORY ROOM TRUST	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 8,227.10	\$ 62,227.10
15120000	492800		TRANSFER IN LOCAL HISTORY R	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 8,227.10	\$ 62,227.10
Total Adjustment					\$ 16,454.20	

Expenditure Budget Lines Amended:

Org	Object	Project	Account Name	Current Budget	Budget Adjustment	Final Budget
85120000	599999		TRANSFER OUT	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 8,227.10	\$ 62,227.10
15120000	511000		SALARIES	\$ 64,875.00	\$ 7,013.36	\$ 71,888.36
15120000	515005		RETIREMENT	\$ 3,516.00	\$ 465.97	\$ 3,981.97
15120000	515010		SOCIAL SECURITY	\$ 4,025.00	\$ 336.88	\$ 4,361.88
15120000	515015		MEDICARE	\$ 943.00	\$ 77.11	\$ 1,020.11
15120000	515020		HEALTH INSURANCE	\$ 14,174.00	\$ 223.42	\$ 14,397.42
15120000	515025		DENTAL INSURANCE	\$ 779.00	\$ 106.84	\$ 885.84
15120000	515040		WORKERS COMP	\$ 81.00	\$ 3.52	\$ 84.52
Total Adjustment					\$ 16,454.20	

Department Head Approval: _____

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Monroe County Extension Office
14345 County Hwy. B, Room 1
Sparta, WI 54656
608-269-8722
608-269-8767 (FAX)
800-947-3529 (TTY)

Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Highlights Update January 6, 2018 to February 15, 2018

The Ag Agent attended the annual Crop Management Conference at Madison, where in depth topics related to crop production are presented by Extension Crops people from UW and Land Grant Universities from around the country. This conference provides professional development for the Ag Agent and information to be brought back and shared with farmers in Monroe County. Two topics that were of great interest to attendees was the presentation on managing dicamba herbicide used pest emergence on soybeans and the many problems that have been encountered, and all of the data that is collected by yield monitors, and similar data collection tools and who owns it and how is it being used.

The Ag Agent worked with the new Head of the Ho-Chunk Ag Division to help them get equipment procured from one of the Amish Farmers who fabricates produce growing equipment in his shop. They are proceeding with one of the pilot programs at the Whirling Thunder Farm that the Ag Agent helped them put together to demonstrate the need for an Agriculture Division.

The Cashton High School kids who worked with the Ag Agent last summer presented their projects at the state level competition. This year competition was tough and one of the students placed 5th and will attend nationals.

Four of the six Private Pesticide Applicator sessions scheduled have been completed. Two of them were in LA Crosse County to help the new Ag Educator get off to a good start in La Crosse County. The last two are scheduled for next week.

The Ag Agent attended the Driftless Region Beef Conference in Dubuque IA, it is a 4 state effort between Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois and MN to provide current topic information to beef producers in the driftless region. Topics that were of high interest were presentations on mycotoxins in feed, facility design, and herd health protocols for beef cow-calf operations.

The Ag Agent and Extension Office Administrative Assistant assisted the Western Wisconsin Beef Producers with their annual business meeting. Guest speaker was Dr. Dan Scheafer, UW Madison research and Dr. Jaoa Dorea, a post doc at UW Madison from Brazil. There were 110 people in attendance at their annual meeting.

The Ag Agent is part of the group that puts on the revitalized Monroe County Conservation Awards Program. The recognition dinner was held on January 27th. The Ag Agent captured photographs and video footage of the award winners properties for use in the video segments and took care of AV needs for the dinner.

The Ag Agent was a presenter at the Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association Winter Conference, and presented information on the various spreadsheet decision tools that he has developed for cattle producers to evaluate and help make decisions on their cattle operations.

Upcoming Events- more to be added as they get finalized

Feb 9-10 Wisconsin Cattlemen's Winter Conference

Feb 15 Winter Crops Update

Feb 20 PAT Tomah

Feb 21 PAT Sparta

Feb 24 Annual Hops Growers Conference

Feb 26- Mar 1 Cattle Feeders Workshops



Joshua L. Goede

Space Camp Counselors

The slate of counselors has been selected. The Agent, state staff, and Barron County Educator met with them through WisLine on Jan 29. The group started with expectations and deadlines. They then expanded to discuss roles and how to make campers comfortable as this is the first out of state trip for many. This year the program expanded to include 6 alternate counselors, youth that interviewed strong but did not receive a spot on the experience. The Leadership will evaluate the value of this expansion after Space Camp. The Agent will also accompany the state delegation to Huntsville, AL, April 26-30.

Clover College Change

2018 Clover College was a great success. There 25 younger youth signed up to attend. The flu kept some away so the 21 that stayed with us at Justin Trails on January 27 had a great time learning about dog safety, making pinecone bird feeders, Snap Circuits, snow in a jar, and fruit pizzas. The Jr. Leaders created all educational programs for the young members with the guidance of the Agent. The Jr. Leader lock-in followed Clover College and was a good time of fellowship and community service projects.

Monroe County Safe Community Coalition

The Agent is working on the Agents 4 Change schedules for Cashton and Brookwood. The Agent will be training high school age youth at teachers for curriculum in tobacco and alcohol.

Clovers & Cranberries (Warrens Club)

A new 4-H Club in Warrens Clovers & Cranberries is starting to stand on its wobbly legs. The club hosted an open gym at the Warrens Elementary on Jan 25. There were eight families in addition to the families of club leaders. The club has started to make their presence known to other community groups and helped set up the community diner in Jan. The club will hold another open gym on February 22. The First meeting of the club will be Feb. 18 at the Warrens Fire Dept.

Fort McCoy

The Agent has met with a volunteer who is interested in starting a club on South Post (military housing). The club would be a community club open to all county youth but making sure to meet the needs of the military families.

Continuing Programs

- **Jr. Leaders**
 - Jr. Leaders will meet in Tomah for pizza and Bowling on March 24.
- **Volunteers in Preparation**
 - There were four adults trained as 4-H volunteers on Sat. Feb. 10.
 - We have classes scheduled for February 19.
 - The Agent will try to schedule more times for volunteers coming through the program.
- **COMING SOON**
 - February 19 – VIP Volunteer Training, UWEX Office, Sparta
 - February 24 – 4-H 101, UWEX Office, Sparta
 - March 12 – 4-H 101, Recreation Park, Tomah
 - March 4 – Festival of Arts, Sparta's Meadowview Intermediate School
 - April 14 – Fur, Fin, & Feather at Sparta's Barney Center

Youth & Family Educator Update January 9th to February 15, 2018

- StrongBodies
 - I spent time getting things ready for the Winter session which started on January 22nd. We have 132 participants enrolled for the session. I attended as many classes as I could for the first 1.5 weeks to help instructors start off strong with new participants. Now I'm just teaching the 8AM Sparta Advanced class and the 3PM Tomah class.
 - On the state level: working on a manuscript on the StrongWomen program with limited income audiences. Working on developing our poster for the conference we were accepted to present at in May.
- CHIP-Nutrition workgroup
 - Held a meeting with schools in Monroe County to gain more information about food assistance programs they currently have, or what they need. We learned that in Sparta, across 3-4 schools, there is currently a backpack program that is run by teachers, teachers buy the food, teachers do the packing, teachers do the distributing. After all of this, one school was serving 20 families but 25 families were requesting food assistance and not able to receive it due to lack of resources. The Nutrition workgroup has worked to partner with the Hunger Task Force out of La Crosse and work on coordinating this program so that teachers don't need to do so much additional work, and so all the families can be served. We are utilizing a room in our building as a "Food Pantry" where food will be delivered every Monday. Volunteers that we recruit will come in during the week and pack backpacks (which will be donated by State Farm) for families and deliver them to the schools. Then the schools will distribute the backpacks on Fridays for the child to take home over the weekend to make sure the family has food to eat. We've received two food deliveries so far and are still in the process of getting things sorted out and organized but

we're really happy that we've been able to partner with the Hunger Task Force.

- Taking Care of You Training
 - I'm getting ready to plan a session for this evidence-based stress reduction class. HCE would like to sponsor the series. It's a four-part series for approximately 1 hour each time. I'm trying to determine who to target for the first session, and what day/times of week would be best.
- Cashton Library Nutrition Event
 - The Cashton librarian is in the StrongBodies class and has asked that I come in and do a nutrition program at the library. So we are in the process of planning the who/what/when of that.
- Lugar de Reunion
 - I am on the Advisory committee for that program which works with Hispanic and Latino individuals in the community. I haven't been able to attend for quite some time due to one of the StrongBodies classes being at the same time- but now I am able to. Lugar is transitioning away from their partnership with Sparta schools and looking to determine where they best fit in the community and how they can best reach their clientele.

Continuing Events

- Continuing to post and promote the facebook site and Pinterest site

Upcoming Events

- Child Development Day at NOW 4/10
- HealthTIDE schools meeting 4/18
- All colleague cooperative extension meeting 4/30-5/1
- National Health Outreach Conference (presenting at) 5/2-5/4