

Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting – April 10, 2018
Monroe County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

Committee Members present: N. VanWychen, D. Pierce, and J. Schroeder

Absent: M. Halverson, M. Cook, and D. Powell (FSA-Rep)

Also Present: C. Ziegler (Forestry), B. Micheel (LC), B. Richardson (LC), M. Komiskey (NRCS), E. Eggert (UW-EXT), B. Halfman (UW-EXT), J. Goede (UW-EXT), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), Ron Luethe (Town of Ridgeville Supervisor), M. Mickelson (DNR- Forester)

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

Call to Order: Chair VanWychen called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Public Comment Period: None

Approve Minutes from the March 13th NR & Extension Meeting: The committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by D. Pierce, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 3-0-3.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: None

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto: Report Submitted

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Tri-Creek Update:** B. Micheel reported the Murphy's purchased the Mark Roberts property the first part of March. This parcel encompasses about two thirds of the tri-creek dam/reservoir. Murphy applied for a permit with the zoning department to build a cabin. Micheel plans to meet with the Murphy's sometime this spring to discuss public access to the pond.
 - a) **Cropland Lease:** Micheel asked the committee to extend two cropland leases that expired this year. This would allow combining of more cropland acres for bidding in 2019. Micheel noted one of the renters would be interested in extending his agreement. *Motion was made by J. Schroeder to approve 1 year extension before bidding out, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 3-0-3.*
2. **Norwalk Sportsman's Club Lease:** B. Micheel handed out a copy of the lease agreement to the committee noting that the lease would be renewable in 5 year increments. Discussion regarding the parking situation and access to the Norwalk Dam and Gun Club. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve the Norwalk Gun Club Lease, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 3-0-3.*
3. **County Farm - Land Use Plan:** B. Micheel gave an update on the land use plan (20-30 years) development for the county farm. Micheel handed out a word document with three scenarios for the county farm, each highlights the pros & con's for each decision (document attached). Micheel asked the committee for their feedback.
4. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel presented the department report to the committee (attached). Micheel stated 83 tree orders and asked C. Holz to give an update. Holz reported \$6,802.00 for a total of 6,460 trees and continues getting inquiries for more orders.
5. **Review March Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed expenditures. (Report attached).
6. **Soil & Water Conservationist Reports:** B. Richardson reported he and Mulder are designing remaining projects for 2018. Richardson reported on the presentation of soils activities to the 120 - 4th graders during the West Salem Environmental Day. Richardson stated he received a reclamation plan for a 519 acre sand mine in LaGrange and Lincoln Twp. From Valley Sand, LLC Waupaca, WI. Richardson will review within the next 30 days, (reports attached).

NRCS Report: M. Komiskey reported NRCS is working on the regular programs. She will be sending Civil Rights information to committee members ahead of next month's meeting. At the meeting she will take any questions and will pass around a signature sheet verifying the committee understands the NRCS policy.

DNR Reports:

1. **Private Lands:** None
2. **Warden:** None
1. **MFL:** M. Mickelson gave a brief update on the upcoming Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group Field Day on Thursday June 14th at the Pine View Camp Ground at Ft. McCoy. Mickelson reported the tree order delivery date is April 19th at the Tomah Ranger Station and nearly all tree species sold out for the state nursery. Mickelson mentioned she will be giving Arbor Day related presentations to the Brookwood, Three Bears, and Tomah Schools.

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler presented his department report (attached). Ziegler reported attending the WCFA Spring Administrators meeting and reported on the highlights. Ziegler gave handouts on McMullen Park Rules and Motorized Vehicle Policy. (attached)
2. **Gerrard Realty Corp property for Sale:** Ziegler and Andy Kaftan continue gathering information in preparation to submit an offer on the Gerrard property listed at \$2,900 an acre.
3. **Timber Sale Bids:** Discussion following the handouts given to the committee for timber sale bids between Wood Dawgs Logging and Strzok Logging (attached). No bid was given for freckle pine and will be bid out next spring. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve the highest timber bids: ski hill \$24,205, Meg's shelterwood \$27,000, and north bluff \$55,152 from Strzok Logging, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 3-0-3.*
4. **Review Forestry & Parks Expenditures:** C. Ziegler reviewed the March monthly expenditures.

County Farm Education Funds: None

Extension Office Business:

1. **4H & Youth Development Report** (Goede) – report attached.
2. **Family Living Report** (Eggert) –report attached.
3. **Agriculture Report** (Halfman) – report attached.
4. **AED Update** (Saxe) - Saxe reported performance evaluations are completed. Saxe gave an update on the vacancies in the surrounding counties and explained the lack of funding by the state in filling those vacancies. Saxe wanted the committee to be aware of the situation. Saxe also mentioned Vernon County has candidates for the two vacancies for Ag and 4-H.
5. **Review of March Expenditures** - (Saxe) Saxe reviewed March Expenditures. *Motion made by D. Pierce to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 3-0-3.*

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

Motion to adjourn: *was made at 11:25 a.m. by D. Pierce, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried, 3-0-3.*

Recorder: Connie Holzl



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

LHR Director / County Historian's Report, March 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
- Gave public presentation to Ladies Aid group about gravestone cleaning and preservation
- Provided educational programming to 157 students both at the History Room and in the classroom
- Promoted and hosted "History-Live" presentation (66 attending), including setting up a live video feed to the Deke Slayton Museum
- Organized and hosted biennial LHR volunteer appreciation luncheon, including the assembling of thank-you gift place settings
- Sent an update to the LHR website of the Student Rural School Directory Index and promoted the update
- Presented a slideshow to Tomah Lions club about LHR and made a pitch for the A-Z exhibit
- Continued to pursue offsite storage opportunity(s)
- Processed donations to LHR including assigning object ids, cataloging, and storing
- Attended National History Day regionals and served as a judge
- Cleaned and rearranged front room (aka conference room) to increase storage capacity
- Began planning for LHR exhibit at Armed Forces Day at Ft. McCoy
- Submitted two emailed reports to the DOT, Rep. Vandermeer, County Supervisor Jim Schroeder, and Monroe County Highway documenting the drainage issue at the Grotto, requesting a solution
- Attended the Monroe County Economic Development Conference; represented the Local History Room and assisted with the conference; created and presented interactive game "How well do you know Monroe County?"
- 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 Walterman: 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

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

April 10, 2018 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel- County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Tree Sales Final – 83 orders = \$6,400
- Wisconsin Land & Water Annual Conference – Conference a success, well attended for being held in the SE (Lake Geneva). 2019 planned for the same location.
- Land Use Planner Position – Researching position, looking at neighboring counties land use planning positions, etc.
- Presentations: Wisconsin Rural Water Conference in La Crosse – Tomah Adaptive Mgt. program; WI Land & Water Conference – P-Trading in Monroe County; Cataract Sportsmen's Club – LCD programs and stream restoration;
- County Deer Advisory Council – Set harvest quota's for the two mgt. regions. Increase tags and opportunities going into fall of 2018 proposed. Holiday hunt and extended archery season. Developing CWD management recommendations for Monroe County.
- Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group – More landowners becoming interested in the group and attending meetings. County Hwy Dept. and town patrolman participated in a training to ID and use a phone app to log locations of invasive along county roads this summer. A summer field day is set for Thursday, **June 14th** at Fort McCoy. Opportunity for the public to learn how to ID & treat invasive plants on their property. Many sessions will be setup and speakers on hand to provide information.
- Discovery Farms Meeting – This was a closure meeting on the Jersey Valley Watershed project. Research from the past 5-7 years was shared with the audience concerning nutrient and sediment runoff to Jersey Valley. In summary sediment should always be a focus of keeping on the landscape by following a conservation plan and keeping waterways in place. Many tradeoffs with manure management applications in the Driftless area. Timing and disturbance were critical in meeting crop needs.

Meeting Schedule:

- April 11th – Tri-Creek Land Use Planning Committee
- April 17th – County Farm, Land Use planning committee meeting/CDAC Meeting
- April 19th – Land Stewardship Awards Committee
- April 26th – Landowner Tree/Shrub Pickup – Afternoon
- May 2nd – Schools in the Courthouse – LCD/Forestry
- May 8th – Natural Resource & Extension Committee

County Farm - Land Use Plan

(Review Plan on 5 or 10 year term)

Manage Property for Ag

- + Maintain Annual Revenue Stream
- + Water Resource Protection
- + Flood Protection
- + Maintain Wildlife Corridor
- + Green Space
- + Outdoor Classroom
- + Demo Farm
- + Follow - County, Twshp, City Comprehensive Land Use Plan to protect prime Ag
- + Future property for County Buildings
 - Building demo cost
 - Building upkeep
- + Protect existing park and cemetery
- + Provide walking trails for public
- + Stream Restoration - WQ Trading
- + Enroll small fields across stream into CREP or tree planting.
- Invasive Plant Mgt.
- + Future Natural Resource Building

Manage Property for Development

- One time revenue
- Township - potential tax revenue
- All + turn negative by flipping property
- No county Responsibility

Manage Property for both uses

- East of County B (Target)
- 40 acres/Term 5-10 years (Conservation Development)
- Annual income plus revenue from 40 acre sale
- Staged after lease agreement completed
- Keeps development connected to existing
- No sewer and water on that side of road
- Annex?

April 10, 2018 -- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Christina Mulder

- **Activities**
 - Streambank inventory on landowners along Moore Creek
 - Many site visits for potential projects throughout the county
 - Creating designs and construction plans for conservation practices
 - CREP outreach meetings with interested landowners
- **Meetings Attended**
 - Southwestern Area Technical Update
 - AutoCAD Training
 - Area DATCP Update Meeting

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**
 - Designing remaining projects for 2018 and visiting new requests.
 - Presented soils activities to 120 4th graders during West Salem Environmental Day.
- **Nonmetallic Mining**
 - Received a reclamation plan for a 519 acre sand mine in LaGrange and Lincoln Twp from Valley Sand, LLC Waupaca, WI. Will need to review within the next 30 days.

Forestry & Parks Report (April) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Timber Sale Administration
 - Close out 143
- Timber sale set up & pre-work
 - Bid packet preparations
- Recon updates
- WCFA spring administrators meeting
- CDAC meeting
- Boundary establishment- survey in Lincoln ¼ mile

CWD Presentation – Bryan Richards, Chronic Wasting Disease Project Leader USGS

- 18-14 month disease, clinical disease= last 4-6 weeks
- Can exist in soil and in plants
- Species barrier is less robust than once thought to be
- Since 2006, WDNR testing 1/3 of the deer....prevalence has increased
- Epicenter prevalence: adult males= 40%, adult females 30%, juveniles 25%
- Increasing the spread: captive deer/elk populations...transporting live animals, carcasses, baiting/feeding, deer attractants, soil, plants/crops, etc.
- 2017 Vernon County = 419 samples, 3 positives (1 township south of Monroe County)

Parks:

- McMullen Park Opened April 1st
- Park Season Preparations
- Park Rules
- Dept Head Meeting –
 - 2018-19 budgeting....be conservative
 - Pay for performance increases: 4/8/18
 - Personnel director retiring
 - Munis updates in June

Snowmobile:

- Entry and groomer approvals in SNARS
- 2018-19 Maintenance Grant
- 2018-19 New Miles of Trail

Tract 1-16

ski hill

BIDDER #1 BIDDER #2 BIDDER #3 BIDDER #4 BIDDER #5 BIDDER #6

Species	Volume	Unit	Minimum Bid	Wood Dawgs Logging		Strzok Logging		BIDDER #3		BIDDER #4		BIDDER #5		BIDDER #6	
				Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total
Oak	410	tons		\$4.00	\$1,640.00	\$6.00	\$2,460.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Oak (45% Red Oak)	53	MBF		\$125.00	\$6,625.00	\$265.00	\$14,045.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Mixed Hardwood	250	tons		\$4.00	\$1,000.00	\$11.00	\$2,750.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Mixed Hardwood	11	MBF		\$125.00	\$1,375.00	\$265.00	\$2,915.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Pine	110	tons		\$4.00	\$440.00	\$11.00	\$1,210.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Aspen	75	tons		\$4.00	\$300.00	\$11.00	\$825.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
TOTAL BID VALUE			\$19,267.50		\$11,380.00		\$24,205.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
MINIMUM DEPOSIT (10%)					\$1,138.00		\$2,420.50		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00

Tract 1-17

freckle pine

BIDDER #1 BIDDER #2 BIDDER #3 BIDDER #4 BIDDER #5 BIDDER #6

Species	Volume	Unit	Minimum Bid	BIDDER #1		BIDDER #2		BIDDER #3		BIDDER #4		BIDDER #5		BIDDER #6	
				Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total
Pine	516	tons		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
TOTAL BID VALUE			\$8,978.40		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
MINIMUM DEPOSIT (10%)					\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00

Tract 5-17

Meg's shelterwood

BIDDER #1 BIDDER #2 BIDDER #3 BIDDER #4 BIDDER #5 BIDDER #6

Species	Volume	Unit	Minimum Bid	Wood Dawgs Logging		Strzok Logging		BIDDER #3		BIDDER #4		BIDDER #5		BIDDER #6	
				Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total
Red Oak	50	MBF		\$205.00	\$10,250.00	\$270.00	\$13,500.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Black Oak	30	MBF		\$205.00	\$6,150.00	\$270.00	\$8,100.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Oak	900	tons		\$8.00	\$7,200.00	\$6.00	\$5,400.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
TOTAL BID VALUE			\$24,190.00		\$23,600.00		\$27,000.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
MINIMUM DEPOSIT (10%)					\$2,360.00		\$2,700.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00

Tract 6-17

north bluff

BIDDER #1 BIDDER #2 BIDDER #3 BIDDER #4 BIDDER #5 BIDDER #6

Species	Volume	Unit	Minimum Bid	Wood Dawgs Logging		Strzok Logging		BIDDER #3		BIDDER #4		BIDDER #5		BIDDER #6	
				Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total	Per Unit	Species Total
Oak	685	tons		\$4.00	\$2,740.00	\$6.00	\$4,110.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Red Oak & Mx Hw	161	MBF		\$190.00	\$30,590.00	\$280.00	\$45,080.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Oak & Mx Hw Bolts	60	cords		\$8.00	\$480.00	\$11.00	\$660.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Mixed Hardwood	61	tons		\$4.00	\$244.00	\$11.00	\$671.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Aspen	116	tons		\$4.00	\$464.00	\$11.00	\$1,276.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Pine	105	tons		\$4.00	\$420.00	\$11.00	\$1,155.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Pine	22	MBF		\$50.00	\$1,100.00	\$100.00	\$2,200.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
TOTAL BID VALUE			\$49,602.60		\$36,038.00		\$55,152.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
MINIMUM DEPOSIT (10%)					\$3,603.80		\$5,515.20		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00

McMullen Park Rules

Campsite Guidelines:

1. All campsites are first-come, first-served – no reservations.
2. Check in time is 6:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M.
3. Camping permits are non-transferable and expire at 3:00 P.M. on last day.
4. Campsites must be kept clean; place garbage in dumpster.
5. All camping units must stay on their own campsite.
6. Fires shall be in designated areas only and attended at all times.
7. An adult must supervise juveniles; juveniles must be at their campsite by dusk.
8. Quiet hours: 11 P.M. – 6 A.M.
9. Campers staying > 21 days must register and pay the monthly or the seasonal rate.

Park Guidelines:

10. Speed limit is 5 mph.
11. No ATVs or golf carts.
12. Park closes 11:00 P.M. to 6 A.M. . . . (except campers, fisherman, boaters)
13. Pets shall be kept on a leash (less than 8') and supervised at all times.
14. Do not damage trees or vegetation.
15. Gasoline motors on Lake Wazeda are prohibited.
16. No life guard on duty. Swim at your own risk.
17. Discharging firearms, bows and arrows, or other similar devices is prohibited.
18. Picnic shelter: clean up the shelter and surrounding area and deposit trash in dumpster.
19. Picnic shelter may be reserved – call 608-269-8736.
20. No one may solicit or peddle merchandise.
21. No person shall wash clothing or vehicles in the park.
22. No one shall harass wildlife.

Emergencies:

Call 911 and then call the campground office.

If adverse weather creates an unsafe environment, campers are advised to take shelter in the closest public building (shower building, bathroom, or office building).

Emergency Phone: contact Camp Host

Monroe County Park Department

Motorized Vehicle Policy

Motorized vehicles allowed within the park areas shall be licensed for use on public roads. No ATV's, UTV's, off-road motorcycles, golf carts, go carts or other motorized vehicles.

Exception:

1. Golf carts and electric mobility devices used by persons with disabilities.
 - A. Determination will be made based on the disabled persons vehicle placard or license plate or sound judgment.
 - B. The disabled person's vehicle placard will be displayed on the golf cart.
 - C. The disabled person must be riding on the vehicle and driving if they are capable.
 - D. All other park rules will be followed.
 - E. If a violation occurs regarding the motor vehicle exception, 1 warning may be given and the exception will be revoked.



Joshua L. Goede

Space Camp Counselors

The Agent, state staff, and Barron County Educator met with the Space Camp Counselors on March 22nd to plan the April 14-15 Training Weekend through WisLine. The Counselors and adult staff filled in details on the outline. The youth and adults also worked to schedule activities within the framework to the Delegate workshop as well. The Agent will accompany the state delegation to Huntsville, AL, April 26-30.

Shooting Sports

The team of Shooting Sports Volunteers have wrapped up our season. It was rough with three snow days. We did extend the season but only for Air Rifle as the equipment we borrow for archery was packed away at the end of March. The fair shoots were great and showed improvement for most of the 35 youth enrolled in the weekly practices. The Team held a potluck/wild game feed on April 9 and gave awards.

Summer Camp

Summer Camp has been a real struggle this year. Monroe County 4-H planned to join an Upham Woods Open Enrollment Camp again in 2018. The June 15-18 Camp filled by March 31 with just one MOCO4-Her signed up. We were able to get 8 more people signed up through a lottery system. On a brighter note The Agent and some motivated young adult are planning a county led and local Outpost Experience. This will be in Ontario at Wildcat State Park. We have three full days planned. An adult volunteer has come forward to plan and take care of food needs which is a major part of a successful event. We are also partnering with the DNR to lead a Poaching CSI and Girls Self

Protection Class. The Agent is reaching out to a Taekwondo Master to lead the Boys in a session.

Tractor & Machinery Safety

The Agent will be assisting with the annual Tractor & Machinery Safety class on the June 18-21.

Fort McCoy

The Agent finished up the 6-week STEM Program on Ft. McCoy. He led a discovery science and engineering program working with gravity, force, and motion. The next opportunity on Ft. McCoy will be training the youth staff on Experiential Education on May 23rd.

Student Government Day

The Agent has been working with the County Student Government Day Committee again this year. The days are planned for May 2 & 9. New this year the youth will hold session discussing a county sugar tax. There is an "Official" resolution that they have been debating in their classrooms. They will sit in your county board seats and debate and vote just as you do. It should be an interesting activity. Also this year Sparta will send delegates from the SAILS School.

4-H 101

The Agent held the first of hopefully many 4-H 101 classes on Monday, March 12 during the shooting sports practice. We had 16 new and established members in attendance. Topics covered were the difference between 4-H and fair projects as well as 4-H Online. There were also many good questions about how 4-H clubs operate and the role of the Extension Office.

Continuing Programs

- **Jr. Leaders**
 - May 19 garden work and ice cream meeting.
- **Volunteers in Preparation**
 - There is a VIP Training scheduled on April 17.
 - There are several adults caught up in the background check system. The logjam seems to have broken with many coming through now each week.
- **COMING SOON**
 - April 14 – Fur, Fin, & Feather at Sparta's Barney Center
 - April 26-30— Space Camp, Huntsville, AL
 - May 2 & 9— Student Government Days
 - June 12— Clover Camp at Tomah's Winnebago Park.

4 H OUTPOST CAMP



2018



WILDCAT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

July 9-11th **Grades 6-8**

Monroe County 4-H - \$30

Non-member- \$75

Activities to include: Canoeing from Ontario to Wildcat, swimming, fire building & safety, DNR CSI, cooking and eating over campfires, tent camping, and field games

Enroll now at <https://goo.gl/forms/BD1DUWox1mtSIRwB2>



UW
Extension

Monroe County

Interested chaperones or counselors, (10th grade & up) please email joshua.goede@ces.uwex.edu for requirements and new training information.

Youth & Family Educator Update March 13 to April 10, 2018

- CHIP-Nutrition workgroup
 - The Sparta Schools Backpack Program is going very well. We have a great number of volunteers and community members learning about the program and wanting to contribute. The Methodist church in Tomah raised \$500 for us already! We're so grateful to everyone who is wanting to help!
 - We get food truck on Monday, sort & count that. Then we come up with a recipe. On Wednesday someone picks up the backpacks from the school. We pack the bags on Thursday and then have volunteers deliver them back to the schools to go home with the kids Thursday and/or Friday. This past month we packed extra-large bags for the week of Spring Break.
 - Tomah has also reached out to us about a backpack program. At this point we are working to identify best practices and get the Sparta program running smoothly before we expand to further places. Ideally, we will have a well laid out document that we will be able to share as a best practice document with other districts.
- StrongBodies
 - Registration started for the second session of 2018. We had over 60 people register the first day of registration! We have over 80 people registered currently for the session that starts April 23rd. We did eliminate two classes for the next session (Cashton and the 5pm in Tomah).
- Monroe County Planning Committee Meeting
 - I have attended these meetings the last few months. It's a great place to share resources and learn more about what is happening in the community.
- HCE Meetings
 - I've attended the Executive Board Meeting. The HCE ladies are a great group to collaborate with on efforts. They sponsored both of the Taking Care of You

programs, which allowed me to offer them at no cost to participants. They are also helping to collect food items for the Sparta backpack program.

- COMPASS NOW Regional Webinar
 - I attended the webinar on the 29th. This presented the data from the needs assessment done across the region and then all the attendees voted on which items were the biggest need to focus on over the next few years until the next needs assessment. Results for that will be coming out soon.
- STEPS Challenge
 - The challenge started on April 1st. We have 48 people registered under 9 different teams. We're in week 2 right now and so far everything is going well! Each week I send out an email with some educational information about physical activity/walking along with where their team should be along the course from Monroe County, WI to Monroe County, NY. Participants then submit their weekly mileage for their team every Sunday.
- Taking Care of You Training
 - This is the stress management/reduction class. Class started in Sparta. We had a maximum capacity of 20 participants. The class filled 6 people on the wait list! Tomah has 3 spots open and starts on April 19th. So far things are going very well and participants seemed to gain and appreciate a lot from the first night of class!

Continuing Events

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

Upcoming Events

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



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Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Highlights Update March 14, 2018 to April 6, 2018

The Ag Agent attended an Extension Crops and Soils in-service in the Dells where the agents and specialists planned out educational priorities and projects for the next year. Project examples include continuation of the nitrogen trials on corn, potassium tissue testing screening in alfalfa and developing improved crops enterprise decision tools and grain marketing curriculum.

The Ag Agent attended a daylong workshop on an overview of materials that need to be known in order to pass the permit test to be able to pilot drones. The workshop included learning about airspace restrictions, reading maps and charts and related topics. The next step is to learn the material and then take the test.

The Ag Agent has worked with a number of greenhouse growers on troubleshooting problems in the bedding plants and flowers over the past month. Problems have been related to ventilation, nutrient deficiencies, and some disease problems.

The Ag Agent worked with a number of farmers one on one over the past month to address a wide variety of topics including rules on growing hemp, evaluating beef cattle rations, building and facility improvements, farm management and records analysis.

The Ag Agent is working with Dr. Schaefer in Animal Sciences and Sandy Stuttgen to determine a plan to develop unbiased information on the dairy x beef cross calves that are becoming more commonly available for farmers to finish out. At this time there is a lot of mis-information about them being spread.

Ag Agents from the area met on April 6th to plan out educational projects and workshops for the summer season, and get an update from counterparts in Minnesota on their herbicide evaluation trials.

Upcoming Events- more to be added as they get finalized

April 7 Cover Crop Demonstration Day- Cashton area
April 24 Greenhouse visits with Brian Hudelson
April 25- Tomah Lions
April 28- Shooting Sports Volunteer Training- Eau Claire
June 2- Monroe County Dairy Breakfast
June 18-20 Tractor Safety- Sparta
June 21- Silage Conference- Dubuque
July 10-12 Farm Technology Days- Wood County
July 25 to 29 Monroe County Fair
Aug 1 Carcass Evaluation
Sept 18 Tour group from Texas