

Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting – May 8, 2018
Monroe County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

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

Also Present: C. Ziegler (Forestry), B. Micheel (LC), M. Komiskey (NRCS), J. Roll (History), E. Eggert (UW-EXT), B. Halfman (UW-EXT), J. Goede (UW-EXT), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), Ron Luethe (Town of Ridgeville Supervisor), C. Caulum (DNR- Forester), M. Modjeski (Warden), C. Schnitzler (Supr.), S. Folcey (Supr.), J. Bialecki (Administrator), L. Hanson (Purchasing Coordinator), P. Peterson (Co. Board Chair), T. Osterberg (Fin. Dir.), J. Gilman (La Crosse Planner), A. Elliott (Zoning), J. Herricks (Land Owner)

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.

Election Of Vice Chair: *Motion was made by J. Schroeder to elect D. Pierce as Vice Chair, second by W. Habhegger. Motion carried 4-0-1.*

Public Comment Period: None

Approve Minutes from the April 10th NR & Extension Meeting: The committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by J. Schroeder, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 4-0-1.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: None

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto: J. Roll reviewed April expenditures and presented report to the committee (attached). Roll gave an update on the “Monroe County A-Z” exhibit, stating the installation date would be the week of June 1st. Roll also updated the committee on the Grotto drainage issue, and was waiting to hear from the DOT as to what to do to improve the drainage situation. Roll also discussed pursuing a room at building 48, to be a temporary storage unit, until a permanent location was found, but he is waiting for the assistance of the Maintenance Director.. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to accept report as presented, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 4-0-1.*

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 gave an update on the two vacancies in Vernon County that has been filled.
5. **Review of April Expenditures** - (Saxe) Saxe reviewed April Expenditures.
Motion made by J. Schroeder to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, second by W. Habhegger. Motion carried 4-0-1.

NRCS was moved up as M. Komiskey had other obligations to attend.

NRCS Report: M. Komiskey reviewed the Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist, discussed each bullet briefly and the committee signed the Affirmation of Review. Komiskey also reported staff is finishing up designs on streambank projects and that compliance reviews will begin shortly.

D. Powell arrived at 9:45a.m. and A. McCoy arrived at 10:00 a.m.

Land Conservation Department:

1. **County Conservationist Report:** (attached). B. Micheel reported 83 tree orders totaling \$6,800 in sales and May 10th as the tree pickup date. Micheel gave an update on the Land & Water Plan and he is working with various agencies in the county for their contribution to the plan. The plan is to have a rough draft of the plan completed this month. Micheel also discussed implementing a CWD Task Force and extended an invitation to the members to join.
2. **County Farm Update- Land Use Plan:** Nothing to report.
3. **Review April Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed expenditures. (Report attached).
4. **Fishing Easements:** B. Micheel presented two fishing easements for approval. David & Nancy Thomas and Donna Boland. *Motion was made by W. Habegger to approve fishing easements as presented, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 6-0-0.*
5. **Soil & Water Conservationist Reports:** Reports Submitted.
6. **Tri-Creek Pond:** Discussed new landowner's objectives to close off access to the easement area in the SW corner of the reservoir. This will make access for watercraft difficult. Micheel meeting with landowner soon to review fence and sign layout.

DNR Reports:

1. **Private Lands:** None
2. **Warden:** None
1. **MFL:** C. Caulum reported the DNR sold 31,000 trees. Rented out tree bars and two planters. Caulum stated June 1st is the deadline for the new MFL applications.

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler presented his department report (attached).
2. **Gerrard Realty Corp property for Sale:** Ziegler gave a brief report to the new members of the committee regarding the property for sale.
3. **Review Forestry & Parks Expenditures:** C. Ziegler reviewed the April monthly expenditures.
4. **Set Meeting Schedule:** Committee discussed leaving the meeting schedule at the second Tuesday of the month at 8:30. Leaving the Extension office at the top of the agenda and continuing with the time frame listing.
5. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Land Use Planning (position) Presentation/Discussion: J. Gilman, Director of Lacrosse Land Use Planning & Development, gave an in depth presentation for a land use planning position in Monroe County. Discussion followed.

Motion to adjourn: *was made at 12:15 a.m. by D. Pierce, second by D. Powell. Motion carried, 6-0.*

Recorder: Connie Holzl



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

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

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

- Continued creating "Monroe County A-Z" exhibit, including reviewing and approving the design and fabrication process, continue fundraising, and tweaking interactives
- Gave public presentation to Warrens Lions club about the History Room and gravestone cleaning; provided a program to the Fennimore Doll & Toy Museum about the importance of history and volunteers
- Created a new exhibit in the hallway display case about the fraternal organizations of Monroe County, including locating and researching artifacts, writing labels, creating labels, installing artifacts, returning previously displayed artifacts to storage
- Provided educational programming to students both at the History Room and in the classroom
- Hosted bus tour at the museum building
- Promoted and hosted "History-Live" presentation
- Updated the historic image database and newspaper index on the LHR website and promoted these updates
- Continued to pursue offsite storage options
- Began the removal of artifacts from display to make way in preparation of A to Z exhibit
- Processed donations to LHR including assigning object ids, cataloging, and storing
- Began planning for LHR exhibit at Armed Forces Day at Ft. McCoy
- 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, the Director supervises 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 schools; 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 and reboxing court records
- 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 church records
- Barb Reisinger: indexing county yearbooks and historic books
- Sara Oostdik: cataloging LHR artifacts currently on display in Past Perfect
- Barb McGreevy: reboxing court records

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HISTORY-LIVE! 2018 PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES



Can the effects of WWI
still be felt Today?



What were some major
county disasters?

HISTORY-LIVE! 2018 PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

Thursdays at 7pm at the **Monroe County Local History Room & Museum**

- **February 8:** *Solving Secrets with Science: Archaeology at Fort McCoy*, by Dr. Alexander Woods
- **March 8:** *Regional Hops Growing: Then & Now* by Craig Saxe and Robert and James Conant of *Bohica Hops Farm*
- **April 5:** *World War I and Its Long-Term Impact*, by Ward Zischke
- **May 10:** *Fires, Floods, and Freaks of Nature: Monroe County Disasters*, by Jarrod Roll

*All Lectures will be held Thursdays at 7pm at the Monroe County Local History Room & Museum, 200 West Main St., Sparta, WI
For more info on these events call: 608-269-8680
Or visit: www.Facebook.com/MCLHR



Joshua L. Goede

Space Camp Counselors

The Agent, state staff, and Barron County Educator worked to prepare counselor and other adult staff to lead the experience to 4-H Space Camp. There were 140 Space Campers, 15 youth counselors and 15 adult chaperones. The Agent accompanied the state delegation to Huntsville, AL, April 26-30.

Student Government Day

The Agent has been working with the County Student Government Day Committee again this year. We completed one round on May 2 with Cashton Middle School and Sparta High Point. On May 9 we will welcome Norwalk, Ontario, Wilton Middle School. The first day went really well. We did something new this year. The youth held a County Board Session discussing a county sugar tax. There is an "Official" resolution that they debated in their classrooms. They sat in your county board seats and debated and voted just as you do. It was interesting how quiet they were. Mr. Kaftan and Schnitzler then added some debate and got the kids talking. It was a very interesting activity. A follow up meeting has been scheduled in June.

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 camp filled early but we were able to get 10 youth,

Three counselors, and three adults in for the open camp.

On a brighter note The Agent and some motivated young adults are planning a county led and local Outpost Experience. This will be in Ontario at Wildcat State Park. We have three full days planned. We will start with canoeing on the Kickapoo. We need a certified lifeguard to join our effort but that is the last logistical hurdle. 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. A Taekwondo Master has also agreed to lead the group 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 will again be on Ft. McCoy for a staff training. The Agent will train the center's youth staff on Experiential Education on May 23rd.

4-H 101

The Agent has been working with volunteers to expand the 4-H 101 Classes. The first was very popular and volunteers are prioritizing topics to bring to future event.

Continuing Programs

- **Jr. Leaders**
 - May 19 garden work and ice cream meeting.

- **Volunteers in Preparation**
 - There is a VIP Training scheduled on May 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.

Health & Well-Being Educator Update April 10 to May 8, 2018

- STEPS Challenge
 - The challenge started on April 1st. The challenge is going very well. I've received a lot of feedback that the challenge has been very helpful at increasing participants' physical activity. That people are making extra efforts to get extra steps in for the sake of the challenge. Everyone seems to be enjoying the challenge quite a lot.
- Taking Care of You Training
 - This stress management class started and is going very well. I finished the class in Tomah and got great evaluation results from the course. We had a snow day for one of our Sparta classes so are finishing the last session this Wednesday. I have received a lot of requests to offer the class again so am hoping to find some time to do so. In addition, one of the participants at the Tomah class works closely with the schools and is planning on talking to them about a potential class for teachers- possibly this summer? It's a great program that gives a lot of good strategies and techniques for stress management and living a healthier, happier life.
- CHIP-Nutrition workgroup
 - The Sparta Schools Backpack Program is going very well. It is nearing the end of the school year so we will be on hold through the summer but are already working on planning for next school year.
- Child Development Day- NOW School
 - I did attend the Child Development Day at Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton school. This is a day that is registration for Pre-K. I was there with a poster board about physical activity for kids and handouts. Unfortunately, not too many people stopped by any of the booths.
- StrongBodies

- The April session has started. We have almost 100 individuals registered across our 4 offered classes. I am currently working on planning for the summer program in Tomah (since we will need to relocate that). I am also working on recruiting additional volunteers.
- All Colleague Conference
 - April 30-May 1 I attended the all colleague conference with UW Extension. We touched base on the status of nEXT gen.
- National Health Outreach Conference
 - May 2-4 I attended the NHO conference in Bloomington, MN. Angela Flickinger and I were accepted to present a poster at the conference. In addition to that, I was able to learn a lot about different health efforts across Extension from many different states. The knowledge I gained I can implement here with different programs I learned about, and also share with other colleagues.

Continuing Events

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

Upcoming Events

- Monroe County Planning Committee Meeting 5/15
- HCE Executive Board Meeting 5/16
- StrongBodies state team meeting 5/18
- Monroe County Dairy Breakfast 6/2



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Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Highlights Update April 6, 2018 through May 8

The Cover Crops Field Day on April 7th was effectively snowed out. Ted Bay, retired Grant county Ag Agent is working on a project for Winrock Foundation to increase the use of cover crops in the Kickapoo River watershed. A small group met at the Portland Town Hall to discuss what was planted in the field across the road and discuss cover crops in general.

The Ag Agent worked with the state Agribility coordinators to meet with some of the Amish community near Cashton to discuss the possibility of outreach efforts to help make the Amish aware of different Agribility resources that would be appropriate for Amish people to use. Examples include different handles for hand tools and some coloring books with safety lessons that were developed at Purdue with Amish communities in Indiana. We will be doing some follow up with this project.

The Ag Agent has continued to work with greenhouse bedding plant growers on troubleshooting problems in the bedding plants and flowers over the past month. In addition, visits with Brian Hudelson, UW Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic Manager were done on May 4th.

The Ag Agent worked with several 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 (including helping the new La Crosse county Ag Agent with a farmer), farm management and records analysis.

The Ag Agent has cooperators lined up for the hops nitrogen trials again this year, a corn nitrogen trial again this year, and a corn starter fertilizer trial this year. A European Corn Borer Variant monitoring project is also being investigated. There will likely be some high school kids serving as co-investigators on these projects.

The Ag Agent will be operating a black light trap again this year in cooperation with the Dept. Of Ag Pest Monitoring Program.

The Ag Agent was the guest speaker at the Tomah Lions meeting on April 25th. He gave an overview of the nitrogen trials that UW Extension is going with the hops growers.

The Ag Agent attended the quarterly Monroe County DHIA Board Meeting, and the monthly Monroe County Farm Bureau Board Meeting, both on April 23rd. The Ag Agent also attended the Western Wisconsin Beef Producers Board meeting on April 26th.

There were two Farm Progress Days Scholarships awarded this spring from the 1980 Farm Progress Days fund. Don Kortbein works with the Extension Office on that Scholarship. One to a student from Cashton and one from Tomah. There was one Western Wisconsin Beef Producers Scholarship awarded to a student from Tomah.

The Ag Agent conducted Adult Volunteer Certification Training for the 4-H Shotgun project for three adult volunteers on April 28th at Eau Claire.

Calendar on the next page

Upcoming Events- more to be added as they get finalized

May 9 Dairy MPP overview workshop- Cashton.

June 2- Monroe County Dairy Breakfast

June 18-20 Tractor Safety- Sparta

June 21- Silage Conference- Dubuque

July 3 Weeds Field Day- Rochester

July 10-12 Farm Technology Days- Wood County

July 25 to 29 Monroe County Fair

Aug 1 Carcass Evaluation

Aug 16- Crops Field Day- Monroe County

Fall- Beef Production Field Day- TBD

Sept 18 Tour group from Texas- cranberry stop

May 8, 2018 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel- County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Tree Sales – 83 orders = \$6,800, pickup May 10th!
- Stewardship Awards Committee: Plan to hold a tour of the award winner's farms/properties on June 30th, 9-2pm open to the public. Nominations open for the Conservationist, Conservation Farmer and Tree Farm Awards.
- PL 566 Dams – Staff assisting with development of the emergency action plan for the 7 structures in Portland Township. Need to remove trees from CC53 (Gilbeck Dam) pond & principle inlet along with the stilling basin sometime in early summer.
- Land & Water Plan Update – Working with various agencies that cover Monroe County for implementing their contribution to Monroe Counties Land & Water plan. Goal is to have a rough draft of the plan completed this month.
- Sparta Well Water– Looking at nutrient/nitrogen mgt. practices going on in the well-shed. Nitrogen levels climbing in the sandstone aquifers north of I-90.
- Soil & Water Resource Mgt. – Counties won't receive their cost share funds until end of May. Monroe County will receive \$50,000 in SEG funds for nutrient mgt. & \$52,000 in bond funding for hard practices.
- Flood Damage Funding – Monroe County has \$30,000 setup for repairing conservation practices damaged by the July 2017 flooding.
- School Programs – Involved with Student Government day at the courthouse. Water quality and LUNKERS construction program with Sparta, Brookwood and Cashton High schools this month. A planned stream tour on Beaver Creek for Sparta students. Applications still open for 6-8th and 9-11th grade students for environmental camps in Northern WI. LCD will cover half the cost of any Monroe County student participants.
- County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) – 2018 harvest quota set to increase levels to maintain population. Holiday hunt to be offered this year and no extended archery season. Formed the Monroe County CWD Task Force out of the CDAC. Plan to populate the task force with interested citizens, explore and implement the 12 recommendations provided to the CDAC. (Handout)
- Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group – Field day is set for June 14th at Fort McCoy. An opportunity for the public to learn how to ID & treat invasive plants on their property. (Handout)
- Land Use Planner Position – Presentation by Jason Gilman – Director of Planning & Development (American Institute of Certified Planners).

Meeting Schedule:

- May 17th – Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group Meeting 2-4pm
- May 29th – Land Use Planning Meeting – County Farm
- May 31st – Western Area Meeting – La Crosse
- June 6th – Tri-Creek Land Use Committee
- June 12th – Natural Resource & Extension Committee

May 8, 2018 -- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Christina Mulder

- **Activities**

- Site visits and surveys for potential projects throughout the county
- Creating designs and construction plans for conservation practices
- Completed wetland determinations with NRCS Soil Scientist on this year's construction sites
- Taught Cashton middle school students about land conservation at the courthouse on May 2nd
- Presented to Brookwood 6th graders about my job and environmental awareness on May 4th

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**

- Finishing up designs, site visits to people calling with erosion issues.

- **Nonmetallic Mining**

- Public Notice was published in the Tomah Journal for the Valley Junction Sand Mine. Fifteen landowners within 300 feet of the project were contacted. A public informational hearing has been requested by one of the landowners. Hearing will be tentatively scheduled for the June meeting of the Natural Resources and Extension Committee.

Forestry & Parks Report (May) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Timber Sale Administration
 - Sale extension for sale 142
- Timber sale set up & pre-work
 - Tract 2-18
- Recon updates – comp 8 150 acres, WDNR

- Mossing Comp 7

- Student Gov't Day Presentation

Parks:

- Shower Building in operation
- Water on to sites
- Cleanup on 4/28

Snowmobile:

- Maintenance approvals in SNARS
- Fort McCoy Agreement