

Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting – August 21, 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), J. Roll (History), B. Richardson (LC), C. Mulder (LC), B. Halfman (UW-EXT), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), M. Mickelson (DNR Forester), M. Modjeski (DNR), M. Komiskey (NRCS), R. Luethe (Town of Ridgeville), N. Kaftan (Corp. Counsel), Robert Marten (LO), J. Bialecki (Co. Administrator), Brad & Roseann Murphy (Tri Creek LO), Keith Giraud (Town of Ridgeville Chair)

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 July 10th 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.

Public Hearing for K and S Cranberry Co. LLC Sand Mine Reclamation Permit: Public hearing was held to hear testimony from the public on the proposed sand mine reclamation permit for K and S Cranberry Co. LLC. One member of the public spoke with concerns about groundwater quantity once operations cease. Richardson answered questions from the committee on post mining land use, grading requirements and financial assurance. Motion made by Schroeder to approve reclamation plan permit, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 4-1.

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: No Report

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto: J. Roll reviewed July expenditures and presented report to the committee (attached). J. Roll reported on a viable off-site collections storage option, at the Sparta UCC Church for \$50 monthly rent, as a temporary solution to their storage issue. A long term free storage solution in a county building is the goal. Motion was made by D. Pierce to accept Museum and History reports as presented, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 5-0.

County Farm Education Funds: The Committee signed a resolution for the funding request that they approved at the July 10th meeting, to the Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center for the 3-D Wall mural for \$3,675.00.

Extension Office Business:

1. **Committee composition and duties:** Motion was made by W. Habhegger to approve the Committee Composition and Duties as presented, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 5-0.
2. **Review July Expenditures:** (Saxe) C. Saxe reviewed July expenditures.
3. **Review/Approve Proposed 2019 Budget:** Saxe reviewed the 2019 proposed budget.
4. **Family Living Position:** C. Saxe discussed the Family Living Educator position with the option of a shared position with Vernon County. Saxe also spoke of two titles for the position- Health and Well Being Ext Educator (hand out provided) and Human Development and Relationships Educator. Will be further discussed at the next meeting.

5. **Office Relocation:** Still in process
6. **4H & Youth Development Report** (Goede) – report attached.
7. **Agriculture Report** (Halfman) - report attached.
8. **AED Update** (Saxe) -Committee provided input to a Situational Analysis Questionnaire and reviewed responses from other Counties.

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Powell FSA Rep arrived at 10 a.m.

NRCS Report: M. Komiskey reported on a partnership agreement with the Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group (MCISW). Goals include getting the information out to land owners and eventually get grants in the county for invasive work. Komiskey also shared that Monroe County is offering small grants to those applying that have been attending the Invasive meetings and have invasive work on their property that can be done. Komiskey mentioned that teasel has now been noted in Monroe County and was the focus of the last meeting. Komiskey stated Monroe and La Crosse County have a total of 30 -31 CSP applicants and is in the process of completing the contracting. Komiskey also gave a report on the Annual Local Work Group- priorities, practices, and resources meeting involving Monroe, Juneau, and La Crosse counties held at the Barney Center on August 1. She mentioned process of changing the requirements for land owners on nutrient management to make implementation more reasonable and will be promoting nutrient management.

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Tri - Creek Access/Land Use- Discussion:** B. Micheel gave a background presentation on the Tri-Creek public Access. Discussion followed with Land Owners Brad and Roseann Murphy to open up the Kermit Ave. for public access. Objectives were given on both sides. Discussion to be further continued with land owners town reps, and Micheel in September to address access.
2. **Review July Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed expenditures. (Report attached).
3. **2019 Proposed Budget:** B. Micheel went over the proposed 2019 budget. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to accept the 2019 budget as presented, second by A. McCoy. Motion carried 5-0.*
4. **County Conservationist Report:** (attached). B. Micheel gave his report. Micheel mentioned the upcoming Western Area Tour coming up on the 28th of August at the American Legion in Sparta.
5. **Cost Share Agreements-Review/Approve:** C. Mulder brought 4 Cost Share agreements to the board. David Kratky well decommissioning for \$662.55, Menno Hershberger- 300' riprap for \$4,217.50, Ricky Von Ruden- 275' of riprap for \$4,270.70, and Joe Hemmersbach- 100' of waterway for \$297.50. *Motion by D. Powell to approve cost share agreements as presented, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0.*
6. **Soil & Water Conservationist Reports:** Reports Submitted. C. Mulder reported a CREP agreement was signed with Shakers Acres for 11 acres along a tributary of Seymour Creek in Glendale Township.

DNR Reports:

1. **Private Lands:** None
2. **Warden:** M. Modjeski reported that he issued a citation to Ernest Hass for discharge fill into a wetland along County Highway X without a permit; deposit permitted nearly \$1,600. Hass pled not guilty and has requested a court trial. WI DNR is also requesting restitution.
3. **MFL:** M. Mickelson mentioned S. Davison is on a fire assignment in Wyoming. Mickelson reported DNR has sent 38 employees to fires in WA, OR, CO, MT, WY, and Ontario, stating extremely busy for the nation at this time. Mickelson stated she will be gone for 3 weeks- in Ontario this week and 2 weeks somewhere in the West.

Chair N. VanWychen left at 11:55- Vice Chair D. Pierce took over.

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Annual County Forest Work Plan Resolution:** *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve the Forest Work Plan Resolution, second by W. Habegger. Motion carried 6-0.*

Chair N. VanWychen left at 11:55 turning the meeting over to Vice Chair D. Pierce.

2. **Committee Composition and Duties:** *Motion was made by J. Schroeder to accept Composition and Duties as presented, second by W. Habegger. Motion carried 5-0-1.*
3. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler presented his department report (attached). Committee asked Ziegler to discuss seasonal sites at next meeting.

D. Powell FSA Rep left meeting at 12:30

4. **Proposed 2019 Budget:** Ziegler presented the proposed 2019 Budget. *Motion was made by J. Schroeder to approve 2019 budget as presented, second by W. Habegger. Motion carried 4-0-2*
5. **Review Forestry & Parks June Expenditures:** C. Ziegler reviewed the July monthly expenditures.
6. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Motion to adjourn: *was made at 12:40 p.m. by W. Habegger, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried, 4-0-1.*

Recorder: Connie Holzl



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

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

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

- Created "operator's handbook" for LHR support staff to use to properly operate and maintain the A to Z exhibit
- Promoted A to Z exhibit by contacting TV news stations and newspapers; conducted interviews with WXOW and the Tomah Journal
- Provided educational programming to summer school classes
- Attended WI Federation of Museums meeting in Madison
- Presented educational program to Memory Café group (a joint program of the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Monroe County and the Monroe County Health Department)
- Attended Finance meeting and County Board meeting to explain Budget Adjustment
- Continued promoting and organizing Art Outdoors (promoting included sending out press releases and flyers; planning included reviewing supply needs, ordering supplies, organizing volunteers, coordinating chair, table, and tent rental)
- Processed donations to LHR, including assigning object ids, cataloging, and storing
- Attended mandatory county employee training session (sexual harassment in the workplace)
- Facilitated the downloading and printing of historic maps of Monroe County and communities for our research library
- Investigated and evaluated potential off-site storage option
- Installed stereoview camera in the 3-D image display
- Created a list of instructions to guide the indexing of the Monroe County Court Records
- 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:

- 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
- John Lasko: represents and promotes LHR at public events and in the region
- Jane Schmidt: indexing newspapers and sorting through court records
- Jim Ebert: indexing newspapers
- Sandy Walterman: creating a master index of Monroe County graduates
- Adam Balz: indexing cemetery records; researching and writing about county topics
- Marilyn Beall: indexing church records
- Barb Reisinger: indexing county records
- Sara Oostdik: cataloging LHR artifacts currently on display in Past Perfect
- Corbin (youth volunteer): indexing Tomah telephone directories

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NATURAL RESOURCE & EXTENSION COMMITTEE

A. COMPOSITION: The Committee shall consist of five (5) County Board Supervisors.

B. DUTIES: The duties of the committee shall be to:

1. Function in accordance with Chapter 59.87 in supervising the University of Wisconsin-Extension programs.
2. Serve as liaison between the Local History Room of Directors and the County Board.
3. Supervise the operations and expenditures of the County Farm and the Wegner Grotto.
4. Perform and/or execute other additional work or duties as may from time to time be required or authorized by state law, County Board ordinance, County Board resolution, motion of the County Board, or as delegated by the chairperson of the Monroe County Board of Supervisors.



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Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Highlights Update July 10, 2018 to August 20, 2018

The Ag Agent worked with a handful of ag agents to have a livestock transportation safety and beef quality assurance display at Farm Technology Days. We had good traffic through our tent for the majority of the show.

The County Fair required a big chunk of time in the month of July.

We harvested the Centennial variety of hops in the nitrogen trial on July 30th, which is about 2.5 weeks ahead of normal, and we harvested the same variety at Rosholt on August 8th, also ahead of schedule (so I did not get to the Cranberry Grower's Summer Field Day) . I do not have yield results back yet. We will harvest the Chinooks at Tomah next week. The student who worked with the hops project last year was named a National Finalist for the National FFA Agriscience Fair that will be held at the National FFA Convention this fall.

We were able to pick out differences in the nitrogen treatments with the drone camera this year, they appear to be similar to what was picked up with the hand held instrument.

The Ag Agent is lead coordinator of a multi- state electronic survey we are conducting with Michigan and Iowa to find out management practice dairy farmers are using regarding using beef semen on dairy cows. The results will be used to determine educational needs in this area.

The Ag Agent has worked with several farms on trouble shooting problems in crops, including bugs and bug id, and herbicide injury problems in some fields. The ag Agent is also working with some farms one on one on farm management related topics.

We held our annual Summer Crop Management Field Day at 5 locations in western Wisconsin. The location in Monroe County was held at Gene and Denise Baumgarten's farm. We had 60 participants in attendance. Topics addressed were a variety of weed management topics, an insect update for the growing season, and a discussion on precision ag and a demonstration of the canopy sensing technology with the drone. We had 25 participants turn in the evaluation at the workshop. Eighteen rated the workshop excellent and 7 rated it good. Twenty one indicated they would make management changes based on something they learned at the workshop. Twenty-three are repeat participants and 18 of them indicated that they had made changes from information they learned at past workshops.

We are working on the upcoming beef cow-calf workshop with guest speaker Matt Spangler from Nebraska, via webinar, and due to some meat packers beginning to require BQA certification, we are working on getting BQA workshops set up to help producers be ready.

Upcoming Events- more to be added as they get finalized

Sept 14 Ag Lenders Conference- Kimberly- guest speaker
Sept 18-19 Tour group from Texas-
October 3-4 Ukraine visitors
October 10 Fall Beef Cow-calf Workshop



Joshua L. Goede

AODA Opportunity w/Monroe County Safe Community Coalition

The Agent is working with the Monroe County Safe Community Coalition to take three 4-Hers to Orlando for a team training on Community based drug prevention strategies. Our group will focus on Marijuana prevention in youth and bring a campaign on Opioids to the adults in the county. The Orlando event is the 15-19 of July and will be fully funded by grants that MCSCC has for programing.

The Agent, participants, and Natalie Carlisle the director grant director for the coalition had a meeting on June 14. The discussion introduced the 4-H youth to the coalition and its work as well as started planning on what the girls want to bring back to the county. The adults also went over current data on drugs, alcohol, and other pertinent statistics to bring the girls up to speed.

Monroe County Fair

The Monroe County Fair was held July 25-29. Overall this year fair was a success. The Exhibit continued to see higher traffic. The kids stage placement has helped people to see the building. The Fair secretary reports gate sales of 18,000+ people visited the fair this year. That number doesn't include youth exhibitors. The new facilities were well used as well.

Outpost Experience

During the last meeting the Agents were executing a county led and local Outpost Experience. The dates were July 9-11. This was in Ontario at Wildcat State Park. We had 25 youth, four counselors and four adults join us for three full days. We started with canoeing on the Kickapoo. Certified lifeguard Mr. Nate Beier join our effort on Monday for canoeing

and again on Wednesday for swimming. A big thank you to him. The food, which was a major concern, went great. All but one youth said there was plenty of good food to eat. We also learned what worked and what did not. We also partnered with the DNR to lead a Poaching CSI and Self Protection Class. A Taekwondo Master was going to participate but fell ill and was unfortunately unable to join us. Over all this was a great experience, a true highlight of the summer.

Fort McCoy

The Agent had a meeting with the Interim 4-H Director about programing on Ft. McCoy. There were meetings held between State 4-H and Ft. McCoy at times I was unable to attend. The Agent has a meeting scheduled for August 24th with State 4-H office to discuss what we are planning.

4-H 101

The Agent has been working with volunteers to expand the 4-H 101 Classes. The goal has shifted to offering one in Mid-October. The topics brought up are the educational focus of 4-H. Program Goals as in what do we want youth to learn through the 4-H experience. This could help with marketing 4-H. Another topic brought up is explanation of the calendar and what opportunities are offered throughout the year.

Youth Interviews

November will bring our annual interviews for award trips. The Agent is looking into the community for members who would be willing to help on an interview team.

Continuing Programs

- **Jr. Leaders**
 - Next meeting in September to start planning for 2018-19 year.
- **Volunteers in Preparation**
 - There were no VIP courses scheduled during the busy summer months.
 - The Agent will be planning VIP trainings in early fall.
 - Good news those volunteers who made it through the background checks and sign up again this fall will not have to redo the background check.

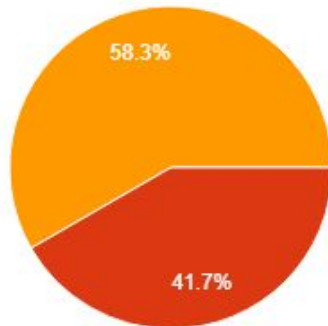
COMING SOON

- Aug. 31-4-H Online Roll Over
- Sept. 10-Record Books due
- Oct. 1- Charters Due
- Oct. 1-Officer Books Due

Survey Results for Monroe County 4-H 2018 Outpost Experience

How did you like the length?

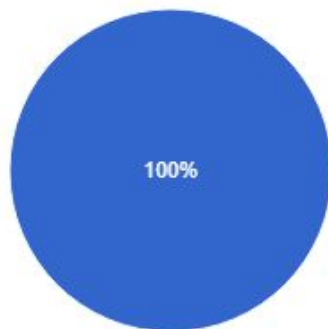
12 responses



- Too long, I wanted to go home on Tuesday. (Day two)
- Just right, I was ready to go home when I left.
- Too short, I could have stayed until Friday if you let me.

How did you like the location at Wildcat State Park?

12 responses



- I liked it!
- I did not like it.

What was your favorite activity? 12 responses

I really liked all the free time we had and how we weren't always in a rush.

Canoeing and cooking around the campfire

DNR

Playing "mafia"

Capture the Flag x5

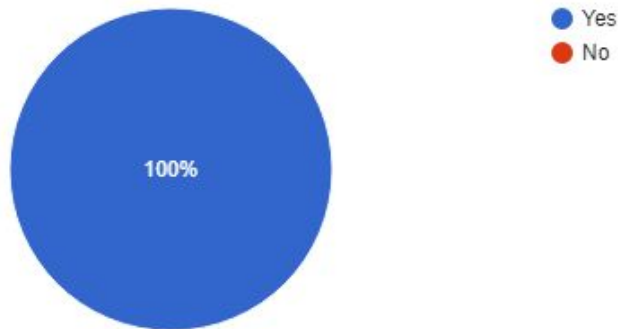
Games during free time

Capture the flag! I also liked the snapenger hunt.

Capture the Flag & DNR & Kayaking

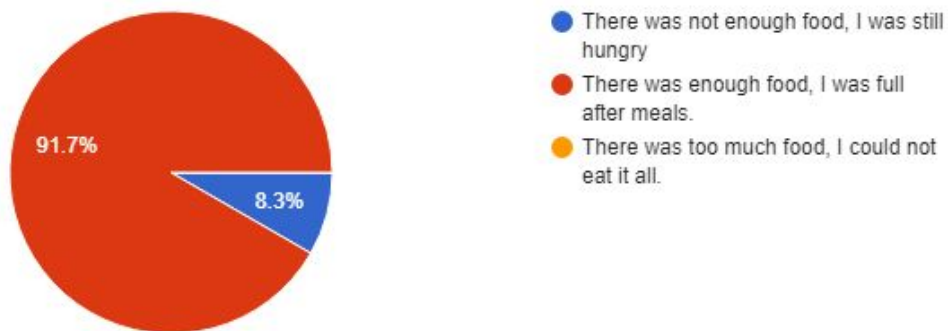
Did you meet new friends at camp?

12 responses



Food amount

12 responses



Parents: Would you send your kids to our Outpost camp again? If no, why?

12 responses

Yes (6)

yes (2)

Yes, she loved it and Elliott is wanting to go next year!

I would like to but baseball is more important to them and it is hard to miss practices and games

Yes!

Absolutely!!

Parks & Forestry

DUTIES - of the Committee shall be to:

- 1.) Direct and supervise the development and maintenance of county parks and forests, per state statutes §28.10 and §28.11 and Chapter 23 (County Code of Ordinances).
- 2.) Establishes policy and guidance relating to Forestry and Parks and Recreation.
- 3.) Approve the Snowmobile Trails Grant payments.

MONROE COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL WORK PLAN - 2019

REFERENCES:

1. Annual Planning Meeting (once per year with minutes)
2. Fifteen Year Comprehensive Plan (2006-2020)

INTRODUCTION:

This work plan is intended to give a general overview of the accomplishment goals for 2019, not be a blueprint of what will or will not be done. Issues such as funding, weather, harvesting activity and workload will ultimately impact what will be accomplished. Due to unforeseen circumstances it maybe expedient and prudent to perform more of one activity at the expense of another, with the understanding that at another time the situation may be reversed.

TIMBER SALE ADMINISTRATION:

There are six active timber sale contracts on the county forest. Normal administrative procedures for timber sales include:

- Advertising the sale and negotiating the contract.
- Meeting with the purchaser before the job is started to go over the sale requirements.
- Routinely inspecting the sale once the harvest has started to confirm contract compliance.
- Collecting load tickets and tracking the volume and type of wood being harvested.
- Making sure landing and road repair is done properly following the harvest.
- Balancing the sale ledger and completing the cutting report at sale close out.

TIMBER SALE PLANNING AND ESTABLISHMENT:

The goals for timber sale establishment and sale in 2019 are:

- Approximately 129 acres of timber will be set up and sold.
- Eighty five acres will be even-aged harvests with reserve trees and reserve pockets of trees.
- Twenty eight acres will be pine thinning.
- Sixteen acres will be an over story removal harvest.

Normal sale establishment procedures include:

- Consulting the compartment reconnaissance to determine harvest needs for the year.
- Inspecting the scheduled stands to determine if a harvest is appropriate.
- Marking the timber to be sold in a manner appropriate for the type of sale.
- Preparing a sale prospectus and completing the cutting notice.

FOREST RECONNAISSANCE:

- The goal for compartment reconnaissance in 2019 is 354 acres.
- Reconnaissance of completed timber sales will be done as they are closed out.
- Regeneration surveys will be performed on stands recently harvested.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT:

- Some buckthorn and honey suckle removal will be performed on timber sale areas via hand removal and herbicides.

REFORESTATION:

Natural regeneration is anticipated on the mature sites that will be harvested.

FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

The normal activities associated with the Karner blue butterfly program and the maintenance of wildlife openings will continue during 2019.

A one acre prescribed burn will be completed to promote native grasses and forbs.

Forestry & Parks Report (August) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Timber Sale Establishment
 - Sale setup
- Invasive spraying – New Lyme
- Annual County Forest Partnership Meeting
- Project Loan Application
- Knowles Nelson Stewardship Application
- CWD Task Force Meeting
- MCISWG Pre-meeting

Parks:

- 2019 Budget Preparation
- Office space
- Harassment Training

Snowmobile:

- Grant reimbursement to STMC
- GIS Mapping

August 21st, 2018 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel- County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- **Stewardship Awards:** Nomination deadline September 1st for Conservationist & Conservation Farmer the Year Award.
- **Western Area Training & Tour** – Set for August 28th that will focus on LCD staff and supervisor training. Tour Unimin Sand Mine and the Sparta Waste Treatment Facility (P – trading) in the afternoon.
- **Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group** – A fall workshop (Plant ID, treatment, etc.) is planned for the morning of October 11th at the Scott-Town Hall. Target private landowners and municipal road crews.
- **Trout Unlimited - Driftless Area Restoration Effort:** Planning a tour on October 16th that will highlight Monroe County stream restoration (Beaver & Moore Creek) work along with Vernon County. The target audience is various agency staff, partners, and TU chapters involved with stream restoration in the Midwest.
- **School Programs:** Boy Scouts field day on the Little La Crosse River clearing brush on August 5th. STEM program field day scheduled for October 9th on Beaver Creek.
- **CWD Task Force** – Held second meeting and developed an action plan. Locate CWD deer head collection (CWD testing) points for DNR, along with venison processors for Monroe County food pantries. Waste disposal options for venison scraps explored along with resolution to prohibit cervid farms in Monroe County.
- **Land & Water Plan** – Wrapping up the 10 plan, planning to hold final review with the advisory/technical committee towards the end of September. November 13th public hearing followed by DATCP review/approval December 4th. County Board end of December.

Meeting Schedule:

- August 27th – Monroe County CWD Task Force Meeting
- August 28th – Western Area Training/Tour
- September 6th – Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group
- September 19th – Forestry Technical Committee

August 21, 2018 -- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Christina Mulder

- **Activities**

- A Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) 15 year agreement was signed by Shakers Acres for 11 acres along a tributary of Seymour Creek in the Glendale Township.
- The deadline to enroll into CREP for 2018 ended Friday, August 17.
- Three Streambank projects (total 1450' rock) are being constructed on Brush Creek in Jefferson Township.
- A stream bank project (1660' rock) has begun on Big Creek in Sparta Township.
- City of Sparta phosphorous trading efforts have begun along the LaCrosse River.

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**

- Completed construction on 5 riprap projects for a combined 3665 lin ft.
- Construction starting on 2 riprap projects
- Completed a well decommissioning for David and Susan Kratky
- Numerous landowner visits for 2019 projects.
- Met with 2 landowners interested in CREP.

- **Nonmetallic Mining**

- Prepared for K and S Cranberry Sand Mine Public Hearing.

Cost Share Approval \$662.55, David and Susan Kratky Well Decommission.