

Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting – December 12, 2017
Monroe County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

Committee Members present: N. VanWychen, D. Pierce, M. Halverson, J. Schroeder, D. Olson, and D. Hall
Also Present: C. Ziegler (Forestry), B. Micheel (LC), C. Mulder (LC), B. Richardson (LC), M. Komiskey (NRCS), J. Roll (Hist), B. Halfman (UW-EXT), E. Eggert (UW-EXT), J. Goede(UW-EXT), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), S. Davison (DNR), M. Mickelson (DNR Forester), Greg Decker (VP Norwalk Sportsman Club), Lucas Bender (Treas. Norwalk Sportsman Club) and Simon Wells with Shae Fox (Monroe County Ag Society).

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 November 40th NR & Extension Meeting: The Committee reviewed the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by D. Pierce, seconded by D. Hall. Motion carried, 6-0.

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: None

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto- Local History Room/Wegner Grotto- J. Roll reviewed November expenditures and presented report to the committee (attached). J. Roll stated the A-Z display is moving forward. He also reported that the 1950s Christmas display has attracted a record setting amount of visitors, many from out of the county. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve the local History Room reports, seconded by M. Halverson. Motion carried 6-0*

1. **Discussion/Action Museum Services Associate Hours:** J. Roll discussed increasing the Local History Room's Museum Services Associates hours from 28 to 30 hours. Roll explained the additional 2 hours would lower the Associate's portion of health insurance deduction from payroll significantly. The additional funds paid to the associate, plus all associated insurance costs, would be paid for by the Local History Room. The additional two hours would cost the County nothing. The Committee was supportive of the increase in hours, as long as the county incurs none of the cost. The Committee questioned who ultimately approves the additional two hours to the position—the Administrator or the full county board.

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Review November Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed expenditures, report attached.
2. **County Conservatoinist Report:** B. Micheel presented department report to the committee (attached). B. Micheel mentioned the news article discussing soil erosion on your property featuring Bryce Richardson as well as DNR forester Megan on Monroe County Invasive Species working group. Micheel also gave an update on the pond drain issue with the PL566 Dam (Luckason). Micheel spoke of the upcoming Monroe County Stewardship Awards Banquet announcing the 2017 winners. The poster and invitation has been developed (handouts).Micheel brought up the 2nd annual tree sales (handout). Connie reported 15 orders at this time totaling \$1,600.
3. **Soil & Water Conservatoinist Reports:** B. Richardson gave an update on completing projects. Richardson mentioned the poster contest judging in January. Richardson will send out the annual nonmetallic mining report and fees to operators in late December. 2018 Nonmetallic fees are due on January 31, 2018. C. Mulder reported completed farm walkovers for the Farmland Preservation Program. Mulder reported FPP Agreement transfer from Tom Schneider to Nicolas Betts in Glendale Township. Also reported three enrollees in FP- David & Diane Brueggen 266 acres, Logan Henthorne 39 acres, and James Kowitz with 570 acres. Mulder mentioned an increase in CREP Program soil rental rates for 2018. (Reports attached).

4. **Review/Approve Cost-Share Agreements:** B. Richardson presented a request for cost sharing of a roofed barnyard for landowner Donald Ziese, Grant Recipient Scott Ziese, in the amount of \$14,709.23. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve Cost Share Agreement for Grant Recipient Scott Ziese, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 6-0.*
5. **Norwalk Rod & Gun Club Lease:** B. Micheel discussed the lease termination letter received by the Norwalk Rod & Gun Club. VP Greg Decker and Lucas Bender attended the meeting, representing the newly formed Norwalk Sportsmans Club, would like to take over the lease. Motion by J. Schroeder to release the Norwalk Rod & Gun Club lease and issue a new a club lease for the Norwalk Sportsman Club, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 6-0.

NRCS Report: : M. Komiskey reported her 8 months, as Acting State Agronomist, in Madison has ended and stated how she appreciated those who acted in her behalf while she was on detail.

DNR Reports:

1. **Private Lands:** S. Davison reported tree orders are going well and mentioned public timber sales.
2. **Warden:** None
3. **MFL:** None

The FSA representative D. Hall left the meeting after his obligation was completed.

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler presented his department report (attached).
1. **1-ton Dump Truck Purchase:** C. Ziegler gave an update on looking at purchasing a truck. Ziegler mentioned looking at a few options and felt the 2006 GMC 3500 truck from the Village of Warrens was the better option. *Motion was made by J. Schroeder, second by D. Pierce giving permission to move forward to negotiate a price and continue on with project. Motion carried 5-0.*
2. **Review Forestry & Parks Expenditures:** C. Ziegler reviewed the November monthly expenditures.

County Farm Education Funds – Monroe County Ag Society for Building Expansion Project: Simon Wells and Shae Fox of the Monroe County Agricultural Society approached the committee for a donation of \$15,000 to help with the costs for the expansion of the building where the swine, sheep, llamas, poultry, and rabbits are housed during the fair. *Motion was made by J. Schroeder to approve the Resolution “Authorizing withdrawal from the Monroe County Farm Education Account for Barn Expansion and Upgrade” to take to the County Board for the donation of \$15,000, seconded by D. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0.*

Extension Office Business:

1. **Review of November Expenditures**
 2. **4H & Youth Development Report** (Goede) – report attached.
 3. **Family Living Report** (Eggert) –report attached.
 4. **Agriculture Report** (Halfman) –report attached.
- Motion made by D. Pierce to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, seconded by M. Halverson. Motion carried 5-0.*

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 9th at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Motion to adjourn: was made at 11:00 a.m. by M. Halverson, second by D. Olson. *Motion carried, 5-0.*

Recorder: Connie Holzl



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

LHR Director / County Historian's Report, November 2017

Submitted by Jarrod Roll

Highlighted Projects and Activities by Jarrod and Team

- Continued planning and fundraising for “Monroe County A-Z” exhibit; began generating content, writing text, and assembling images; continued with the fundraising process, following up with potential donors
- Coordinated volunteers for and began promotion of “Winter Break Craft Day at the Museums”
- Attended Monroe County Budget Hearing
- Organized and co-hosted WI Federation of Museums Annual Conference in Cedarburg
- Fabricated and installed the 1950s Christmas display; promoted and hosted the 1950s Christmas display opening reception; promoted the display via email, radio, newspaper, Facebook, and TV interviews
- Processed donations to the 2017 Annual Fund, including tracking donation amounts, issuing thank you letters and donation receipts; created contribution reminder postcards and mailed them
- Promoted and organized “See Santa at the History Room” event
- Generated content for the MCHS newsletter
- 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

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

December 12th, 2017 LCD- Staff Report

Bob Micheel- County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Newspaper - Conservation Matters – Keep an eye out for a couple articles featuring Bryce Richardson discussing soil erosion on your property along with DNR forester Megan on Monroe County Invasive Species working group.
- Monroe County Stewardship Awards Committee – Notice went out to the papers announcing the 2017 winners. Banquet poster and invitation has been developed for the upcoming banquet. (Handouts) Awards and signage being developed.
- Land & Water Plan – Met with DNR water quality personal, discussed adding a 9 key element (watershed-Beaver Creek) portion to the Land & Water Plan. This would give the county access to more funding to address water quality issues.
- Golden Sands RC&D – Request from their staff to give a presentation to the county board concerning their role in the county and regional projects.
- CWD – Baiting & feeding ban in effect as of December 1st for Monroe County. Deer in Vernon County came back positive for CWD. DNR created a few collection sites for CWD testing across Monroe County prior to the gun season.
- PL 566 Dams – Operation & Maintenance update along with EAP development.
- Employee Evaluation – on-going this month.

Meeting Schedule:

- December 14th – Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group
- January 5th – Awards Committee meeting
- January 9th – Natural Resource & Extension Committee meeting



2017 MONROE COUNTY

LAND STEWARDSHIP

AWARDS BANQUET INVITATION

The Monroe County Land Conservation Department will be hosting a Land Stewardship Awards banquet to recognize and celebrate the 2017 Conservation Farmer, Conservationist, and Tree Farmer of the year on **Saturday January 27, 2018** beginning at 6pm at Jakes Northwoods in Sparta (1132 Angelo Road). We will be recognizing outstanding individuals, nominated and selected by their peers, who have a history of land stewardship and commitment to conservation.

You are cordially invited to help celebrate the recipients of the 2017 Land Stewardship Awards. The banquet will consist of a social, dinner, and program. Tickets are \$10 each. If you would like to attend, please complete the attached form and return to our office with payment by January 19, 2018.

6:00pm – Social & Agency Display

7:00pm – Dinner

7:45pm – Program

- Guest Speaker – Dave Olson (Retired UWEX Agent)
- Conservation Youth Poster Contest Winners
- Award Presentations

9:00pm – Social

Conservationist of the Year

Larry & Marilyn Revels

Conservation Farmer of the Year

Gerald & Ann Klinkner Family

Paul & GERALYN Klinkner Family

Tree Farmer of the Year

Jim & JoCarol Moede



2017 Monroe County Land Stewardship Awards Banquet RSVP

Registration Deadline: January 19, 2018

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Banquet Tickets _____ @ \$10 each \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Mail to:

Monroe Co. Land Conservation Dept.

820 Industrial Dr. Suite3

Sparta, WI 54656

Attn: Connie

608-269-8973

Email: connie.holz@co.monroe.wi.us



2017 MONROE COUNTY LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, January 27th, 2018

Jakes Northwoods

Dinner & Awards – 6pm to 9pm

Guest Speaker – Dave Olson

(Retired Monroe Co UWEX Agent)

**OPEN TO
PUBLIC!**

TICKETS \$10

Registration Deadline January 19, 2017

**Contact the Land Conservation Dept.
for registration info • 608-269-8973**

Conservationist of the Year

Larry & Marilyn Revels

Conservation Farmer of the Year

Gerald & Ann Klinkner Family

Paul & GERALYN Klinkner Family

Tree Farmer of the Year

Jim & JoCarol Moede

2nd ANNUAL TREE SALE

MONROE COUNTY - LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT.

Now taking orders for hardwoods, conifers, small trees & shrubs, available in bundles of 25. Fruit trees sold individually along with tree planting supplies.



Order Deadline - March 1, 2018

For tree order forms and or questions contact: Connie Holzl Administrative Assistant at 608-269-8973 or email connie.holzl@co.monroe.wi.us you can also download order forms and view tree information on the LCD website: www.co.monroe.wi.s/departments/landconservation.

December 12, 2017 -- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Christina Mulder

- **Farmland Preservation Program**
 - Completed farm walkovers in Wells, Portland, and Jefferson Townships
 - Land and FPP Agreement transfer from Tom Schneider to Nicolas Betts in Glendale Township.
 - David P and Diane Brueggen (Jefferson & Portland) is enrolling 266 acres
 - Logan Henthorne (Glendale) is enrolling 39 acres
 - James Kowitz (Wells) is enrolling 569 acres
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**
 - There are new soil rental rates for 2018. Most rates increased but some decreased. Highest payment in 2017 was \$166/ac and highest payment for 2018 is \$198/ac. More productive/fertile soils will have a higher soil rental rate.
- **Designs & Construction for Conservation Practices**
 - Installing 120' riprap on Brian & Michelle Rasmussen's property along Chub Creek in Township of Adrian. This is a partnership with the City of Tomah and their phosphorous credit trading efforts.

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**
 - Continuing to survey and design projects for 2018
 - Farmland preservation farm walkovers in the SE Headwaters.
 - Completed Streambank Riprap project for Dave Linehan 1275 lin ft. (CREP and Phos. Trading with the City of Tomah)
 - Cost Share Approval for Scott Giese. Heavy Use Protection in conjunction with a roofed barnyard. (\$14,000 cost share)
- **Nonmetallic Mining**
 - Completed Mine inspections
 - Early stages of reclamation by Gerke Excavating on the Jerry Jeffers Sand Pit. Post mining land use is cropland. Grading completed and limed. Site will not be fully reclaimed until crops are actively growing. Corn/Hay rotation.

Forestry & Parks Report (December) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Timber Sale Administration
 - 138
 - 147
- Timber sale set up
 - Tract 2-18
 - Tract 3-18
- Recon updates
 - Post sale updates
 - Past due stands

Parks:

- Final winterization/shut down
- Researching options/soliciting quotes for water heater replacement in shower building

Snowmobile:

- Snowmobile Trail Renewal Agreements: WDNR - complete



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 November 15, 2017 to December 12, 2017

The UW Extension Annual Soil and Water Update for Agronomy Professionals was held on November 30th at Sparta. There were 25 participants from around the area in attendance. Topics covered included use of cover crops, using new technology to evaluate field efficiency and trafficking patterns during silage harvest, nutrient management planning and an update on tillage research.

The Ag Agent met with the Monroe County Farm Bureau Board and the Western Wisconsin Beef Producers Cooperative Board over the past month to provide updates on projects and information on future events that they help sponsor and support.

The Wisconsin Beef Information Center webpage that the Ag Agent is the webmaster is on track to receive over 60,000 site visits in 2017. This webpage is the location where our UW Extension beef production resources are located, and where we promote timely educational information.

The corn grain nitrogen trial results yield plateaued out at 180 bushels at 134 lb of nitrogen per acre. The economic optimum nitrogen rate was 126 lb of nitrogen per acre. This rate means that the additional bushels of corn gained with nitrogen applications above 126 lb of nitrogen did not pay for the extra nitrogen under the current corn and nitrogen price scenarios. The results from the trial are now part of the data pool that UW soil scientists use to evaluate and adjust recommendations. See the chart on the following page.

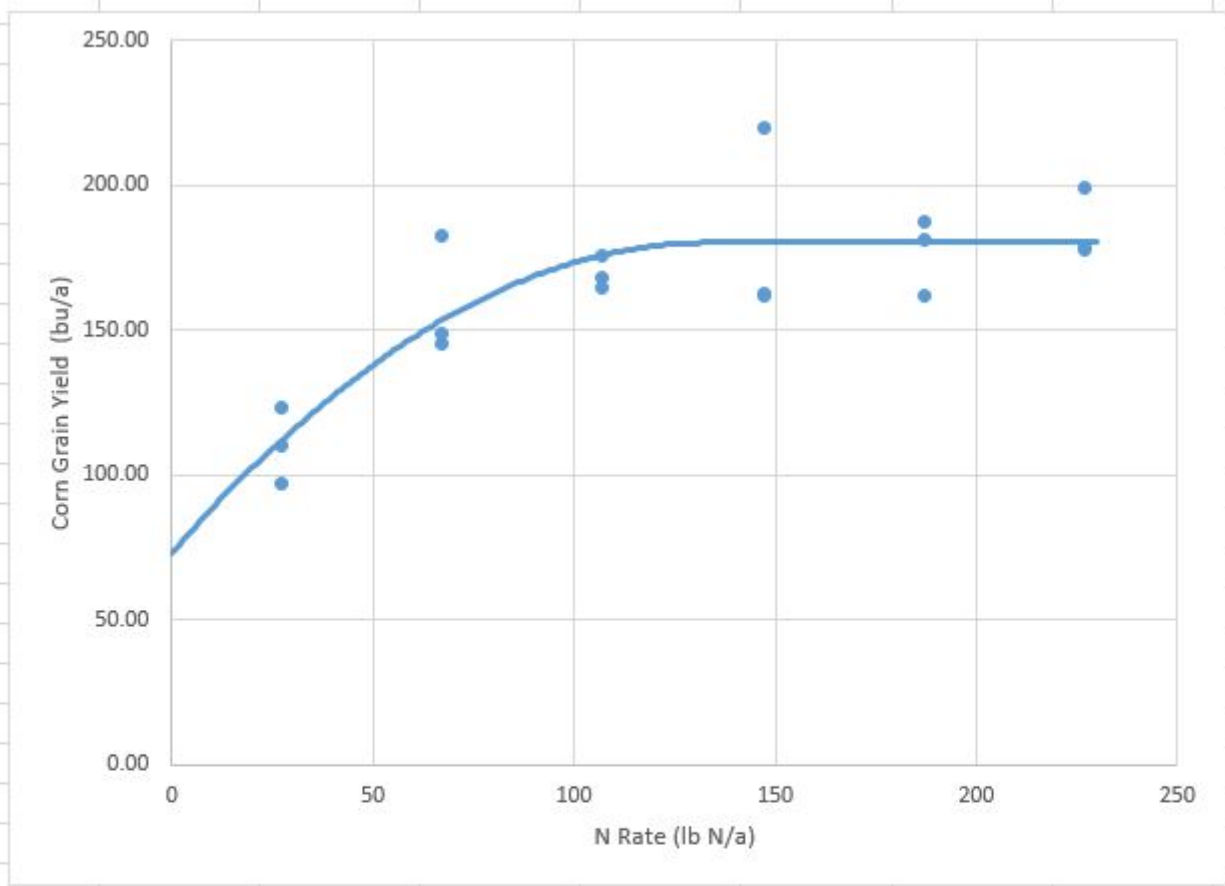
The Ho-Chunk Tribe has hired a manager for their newly formed Agriculture Division. The Ag Agent has begun to work with them to investigate implementing some projects on the Whirling Thunder Farm near Tomah.

The Ag Agents in Buffalo, Chippewa and Monroe County are investigating the feasibility of working with cooperating farmers to conduct some trials of growing industrial hemp. The Ag Agent has been contacted by farmers who are interested in this crop and participating in trials.

The Ag Agent is working with a farmer in the county to look at the feasibility of growing Kernza, a perennial wheatgrass that can be harvested for forage or grain that may be a viable option on some of the more erodible ground.

Upcoming Events- more to be added as they get finalized

Jan 5 Agronomy Update
Jan 9-11 Crop Management Conference
Jan 24- 25 Wisconsin Cranberry Winter Conference
Jan 25-26 Driftless Region Beef Conference
Jan 26 Western WI Beef Producers Annual Meeting
Jan 27 Monroe County Conservation Awards Program
Feb 9-10 Wisconsin Cattlemen's Winter Conference
Feb 15 Winter Crops Update
Feb 26- Mar 1 Cattle Feeders Workshops



If Nrate is < 134, then Yield = $72.9 + 1.6035 * Nrate - 0.00599 * Nrate * Nrate$

$R^2 = 0.72$

Else, Yield = $72.9 + 1.6035 * 133.8 - 0.00599 * 133.8 * 133.8 = 180$

N rate at yield plateau = 134 lb N/a

Economic Optimum N Rate = 126 lb N/a at N:corn price ratio of 0.10

2017 Monroe County Corn Grain Nitrogen Trial Yield Response Graph

Family Living Update November 14 to December 12, 2017

- Stronger Together
 - Last class was November 16th. Results Sheet Attached.
- StrongWomen
 - We just started registration for the January session yesterday. We'll have the three locations (Tomah, Sparta, Cashton) and 6 different classes. I will be teaching 1-2 of the classes depending on whether one of my instructors is feeling better by January. We're off to a good start with registration but always looking for more ideas to get the word out in Cashton.
 - I am on the StrongWomen state team. Right now one of the projects I'm working on is the FoodWise project. This is a way to get physical activity education to low-income audiences across the state. We recently submitted an abstract for the National Health Outreach meeting and we are working on submitting a manuscript to the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior due in April.
- Cooperative Extension Programming Meeting
 - We had a state-wide meeting this past Wednesday where we learned a little bit more about the nEXT generation project. Mostly it just served as a way to get everyone on the same page. The only change for me right now is my title has changed to "Youth & Family Extension Educator". This title will likely be changing again before July 1st as we are placed into our "centers".
- Safe & Healthy Food Pantry Project: Monroe County
 - We received notification about the grant and unfortunately we did *not* receive it. Instead, I plan to work with the different food pantries on implementing some of the strategies in the Safe & Healthy Food Pantry Toolkit- the ones that don't cost money to implement. I also am looking for a small grant- approximately \$5,000 which would help us to do recipe & cooking demonstrations at the food pantries.

Continuing Events

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

Upcoming Events

- Volunteer Management Essentials course in Wisconsin Dells 1/4/2018



Joshua L. Goede

Shooting Sports Committee

The Agent met with the Shooting Sports committee and established the 2018 Shooting Sports Schedule. The committee felt very ambitious this year they are hosting 8 weeks of practice, 2 weeks of fair shoots, and a celebration. Starting January 22 both Archery and Air Rifle will use the full gold building at Recreation Park. The practices will run through March 12. Fair competition shoots will be March 19 & 26. The Group is planning a small wild game feed and celebration night on April 2nd to cap off the year.

The other Shooting Sports discussion this past month concerned the necessity of having a shotgun and .22 Rifle program this year. Sparta and Tomah both have a trap league through the school. There are few members in the other districts that attend the program we currently offer. The current decision is to hold off for a year and reevaluate in 2019.

Clover College Change

The Jr. Leaders changed the venue for Clover College from 3 Bears to Justin Trails. Cost was a major factor as well location. It was felt it was important to move our events around the county. The import lies in that these decisions were initiated by and decided by the youth with almost no input from the Agent.

Monroe County Safe Community Coalition

The Agent has been replaced as the Treasurer of the Organization. He will remain working with the youth components of the group specifically Agents 4 Change peer education program

Reporting

The Agent is working on getting information into the online system to report the great things that have happened in Monroe County 4-H in 2016-17. The Club Charters are uploaded and we are working on getting confirmation letters out to club leaders.

Warrens Club

The Agent has been talking to a current leader who now works at Warrens Elementary. Both she and I believe there is sufficient interest to start working on a new club in that corner of the county. The plan we developed is to have an open gym at the Warrens Elementary in January, then to have a first official meeting in February. An idea we talked over is to continue the open gyms in Feb & March, having the official club meeting

Project and Volunteer Hours

The Agent has added a requirement to being a member in good standing. All members 3rd Grade and above must complete an hours tracking form. The members fill out the form with hours they have spent learning about their projects. The form is signed by a parent or the teacher to document the hours spent learning. The requirement is 10 hours spent learning about animal projects and 6 hours spent learning about non-living projects. There is also a form to track hours spent by adults volunteering. There is not an enforcing mechanism for the forms yet but the agent is working on that.

Community Learning Centers

The Agent has continued working with the Cashton STEM Club as that is a focused effort with specific students. He will present on Thursday, Dec. 14 a study of Balance and Motion.

Continuing Programs

- **Jr. Leaders**
 - Jr. Leaders staffed a full evening at the Sparta Holiday Light.
 - Jr. Leaders are planning Clover College with described changes
 - Jr. Leaders are looking forward to the annual lock-in to be held at Justin Trails following Clover College.
- **Volunteers in Preparation**
 - We have classes scheduled for December 12, January 18, and February 10.
- **COMING SOON**
 - January 27 – Clover College
 - March 4 – Festival Of Arts, Sparta
 - April 14 – Fur, Fin, & Feather at Sparta's Barney Center