

Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting - May 19, 2016
Mo. County Ag Service Center - 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

Present: Committee Members: N. VanWychen, J. Schroeder, D. Pierce, M. Halverson, D. Hall.

Absent: Dan Olson

Also Present: B. Micheel, C. Ziegler, C. Walroth, M., Mickelson, J. Roll, A. Karrels, V. Blount, B. Richardson, C. Mulder, B. Halfman, J. Goede, E. Eggert.

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

Call to Order: Chairman VanWychen called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Committee and Staff Introductions: New members were introduced.

Election of Vice Chair: A nomination for Dave Pierce as Vice-Chair was made by Jim Schroeder.

Public Comment Period: There was no public comment.

Set NR&E Committee Structure: The new committee structure time, date, and location was discussed and decided that future meetings will be held at 8:30 a.m. on the 2nd Tuesday each month at the Mo. County Ag Center in Sparta.

Approve Minutes from the March 15th LCC Meeting: The committee reviewed the March 15th minutes. A *motion* was made by Don Hall to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Jim Schroeder.
Motion carried, 5-0.

County Conservationist Report & Review Expenditures: B. Micheel presented the County Conservationist Report and discussed LCD programs (attached) and the committee reviewed expenses. A new mission statement was adopted for the Natural Resource Committee.

Summer Camp Scholarships: Summer camp scholarship applications were discussed. There were 6 applications from the 6-8th grade level. None from the 9-12th grade level. Members discussed allowing all 6 applicants to be awarded to promote the program. A *motion* was made by David Pierce to fund all six applicants at \$50 per applicant for a total of \$300 for the summer camp program, seconded by Mark Halverson. ***Motion carried, 5-0.***

N. VanWychen spoke with J. Roll about moving the Deke Slayton/Bike Museum Report and the Local History Room/Wegner Grotto report to the top of the agenda to allow both A. Karrels and J. Roll to return as soon as possible to their departments. J. Roll agreed that being on the agenda early would be beneficial.

Soil and Water Conservationist Report: B. Richardson discussed future projects, non-metallic mining, and community education. C. Mulder presented the CREP report. N. VanWychen recognized B. Richardson with a certificate for 25 years of service.

Approve Cost Share Agreements: Ten cost share agreements were presented for approval (attached). A *motion* to approve was made by D. Pierce, seconded by D. Hall. ***Motion carried, 5-0.***

NRCS Report: V. Blount presented the NRCS report, discussed the CRP plan, upcoming internal deadlines for expiring contracts, and compliance.

DNR Reports: C. Walroth introduced the new county forest liaison, Megan Mickelson, and reported on tree planting and school programs. She mentioned that a Monroe County nominee in 2014 for Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year has been nominated for the regional spot as well.

Forestry & Parks Updates/Review Bills: C. Ziegler discussed revenues from timber sales and snowmobile grants. The County Forest currently has 10 active townships containing county forest land, generating \$75,000 in revenue. Expenses range from \$35-40k leaving about \$30k that is returned to the General Fund. Snowmobile grants from the state generate about \$75,000 in revenue that is used to help maintain trails. He also explained the 2 county parks and yearly revenue which generates about \$145,000 with expenses about \$90k. Chad mentioned his 10yr projects which include equipment purchases and facility improvements. Expenses were reviewed by the committee.

Approve Minutes from the April 8th Extension Mtg: Minutes were reviewed by the committee. D. Pierce made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried, 5-0.

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum Report: A. Karrels presented report to committee (attached). N. VanWychen discussed adding the Deke Slayton/Bike Museum report to be given at the beginning of agenda, to follow Local History Room Report. A. Karrels agreed that the change would be beneficial.

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto: J. Roll presented report (attached) to committee and expenses were reviewed.

County Farm Education Funds: B. Halfman informed the committee that there is currently \$40-50k available for educational projects in the county.

Extension Office Business:

~4H & Youth Development – J. Goede presented report to committee (attached).

~Family Living – E. Eggert presented report to committee (attached).

~Agriculture Ext Update – presented by B. Halfman (attached).

A ***motion*** was made by D. Pierce to accept the agent program reports. Seconded by M. Halverson. Motion carried, 4-0.

~State WACEC Conference – N. VanWychen mentioned interest in attending the conference June 20-21st. A ***motion*** was made by D. Pierce to approve N. VanWychen to attend the state conference. Seconded by M. Halverson. ***Motion carried, 4-0.***

~UW Ext Re-organization Area Meeting – D. Pierce and N. VanWychen are planning on attending. J. Schroeder will try to attend.

A ***motion*** was made by D. Pierce, seconded by M. Halverson to approve committee members attending the UW Ext Re-organization Area Meeting. ***Motion carried, 4-0.***

The next meeting will be held June 14th at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Motion to adjourn was made at 11:45a.m. by D. Pierce, seconded by M. Halverson. ***Motion carried, 4-0.***

Leslie Schreier, Recorder