

Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting – April 11, 2017
Monroe County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

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

Committee Members absent: D. Olson.

Also Present: C. Ziegler (Forestry), C. Mulder (LC), J. Roll (Hist), M. Komiskey (NRCS), M. Mickelson (DNR) E. Eggert (UW-EXT), B. Halfman (UW-EXT), J. Kuehnhold (Golden Sands)

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

Call to Order: Chairman VanWychen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Public Comment Period: There was no public comment.

Approve Minutes from the March 14th NR & Extension Meeting: The Committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by M. Halverson, seconded by D. Pierce. Motion carried, 5-0-1.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: No Report

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto- J. Roll reviewed March expenditures and presented report to the committee (attached). J. Roll handed out a flyer announcing 2017 Public Lecture Series of Live History (attached). J. Roll stated that, due to generous donations and a grant, LHR has added two new microfilm scanners bringing the total to four.

1. **County Farm Education Funds: proposal by the Local History Room:** *J. Schroeder made a motion to approve the Local History Room's request for \$11,000 from the County Farm Education Funds for a new interactive exhibit at the Local History Room called, "Monroe County: A to Z," seconded by D. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Review March Expenditures:** C. Holzl reviewed expenditures as presented. C. Holzl gave an update on tree sales, noting the pickup date is April 27th from 10 am till 5 pm at the Land Conservation office location.
2. **County Conservationist Report:** C. Mulder presented the departmental report to the committee (attached), noting, the lower bid from Ewald Automotive Group was accepted of the two truck bids received for the replacement truck. Mulder mentioned that the Conservationist, Conservation Farmer, and Tree Farmer are seeking nominations for the Stewardship Awards through the end of summer. Mulder also noted B. Micheel is recommending establishing a non-lapsing account for the Streambank Easement Management program - will discuss at the next meeting in May.
3. **Soil & Water Conservationist Report:** C. Mulder discussed the CREP and Farmland Preservation Program activities this last month and continues working on designs and surveys for 2017 Conservation Practices. Mulder presented B. Richardson's report of his activities of ongoing design construction for 2017 along with his site visits and surveys. (Reports attached). Mulder mentioned that the Kaufmann Quarry notice was published and the reclamation plan for nonmetallic mining will be presented at the next meeting in May.
4. **Approve Fishing Easements:** None
5. **Approve Cost-Share Agreements:** None

NRCS Report: M. Komiskey discussed the EQIP project funding with the March 3rd deadline and the EQIP Initiatives with a deadline of June 2. Komiskey gave an update on the new procedures for cost-sharing projects and department changes.

Golden Sands RC&D Presentation: J. Kuehnhold gave a presentation on the Invasive Weed Program- noting the obnoxious wild parsnip in the areas of the state. Joel gave a synopsis of various projects and workshops available they provide to the land owners such as, assisting with Grazing Plans, Conservation field days, consulting with beginning farmers, and organic transition.

DNR Reports:

1. **Private Lands:** M. Mickelson stated the DNR tree sales pick up was tomorrow.
2. **Warden:** Not present.

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler presented his department report (attached). Ziegler discussed the WCFA Conference that was held in Madison, also spoke about the Tri Creek Recon.
2. **Review/Approve Timber Sale Bids:** *Motion was made by J.Schoeder to approve the high bidder on each timber sale, the high bidder on both sales was submitted by Delaney Forest Products, LLC for \$34,912 for Tract 2-16 & \$32,719.10 for Tract 3-16, seconded by D. Hall. Motion carried 5-0-1.*
3. **Review Forestry & Parks Expenditures** C. Ziegler reviewed the March monthly expenditures.

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

County Farm Education Funds – Discussion of potential projects - No discussion

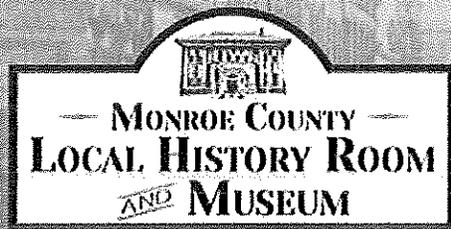
Extension Office Business:

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

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

Motion to adjourn: *was made at 11:30 a.m. by J. Schroeder, second by M. Halverson. Motion carried, 4-0-1.*

Recorder: Connie Holzl



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

County Historian's Report, March 2017
Submitted by Jarrod Roll, Director / County Historian

Highlighted Projects and Activities by Team

- Hosted Business After 5 at the Museums (**53 attending**), including creating an interactive quiz and promoting the event
- Attended WFM meeting in Madison
- Promoted and hosted History-Live program about Kathryn Clarenbach, including writing press release, posting event info on a variety of websites, newspapers, via group emails; **33 attended**
- Purchased the new equipment for the library; installed the equipment, loaded software for operating the equipment and Microsoft Office 2016, and networked the new computers to existing computers and printers.
- Continued planning for "Monroe County A-Z" exhibit, including reviewing the job quote and following up with items overlooked from quote; also created a preliminary fundraising plan
- Provided educational programming to **298 students** from Sparta, Tomah, N.O.W., and Wyeville at LHR and in the classroom, ranging from Kindergarten to freshmen in high school.
- Updated and enhanced "you be the genealogist" activity as part of the Immigration and Genealogy program for high school students
- Served as a judge for National History Day (at the UW La Crosse campus)
- Met with county resident to interview about downtown Sparta businesses
- 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; checked fire extinguishers; processed new donation offerings; conferred with Alli Karrells about museum issues and activities; attend 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): Facebook, teach students, presented three genealogy classes to **98 people**; assist with research, exhibits, marketing, 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
- Barb McGreevy: church indexing project
- Adam Balz: indexing and transcribing Tomah G.A.R. book; writing County School histories
- 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
- Sammi Meyer: fulfill research requests; other various duties

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HISTORY-LIVE! 2017 PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES



What was/is the
Farmer's Union?

Did you grow up in the
1950s & '60s?

HISTORY-LIVE! 2017 PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

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

- **February 9:** *All But Forgotten Institutions: History of the Monroe County Poor Farm and Asylum*, by Scot Simpson
- **March 9:** *Kathryn Clarenbach, Unsung Heroine"* by Jenny Price
- **April 6:** *Our Wisest Pursuit: The Wisconsin Farmer's Union*, a documentary by Mark Seitz
- **May 11:** *Three Boomer Broads: Remembering While We Still Can*, by Terry Visger and Sara Slayton

*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

April 11, 2017 LCD- Staff Reports

Bob Micheel- County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- F-150 Truck Bid Results: Brenengen Auto - \$28,286.00
Ewald Automotive Group - \$26,002.00 (Accepted Low Bid)
- The Monroe County Land Stewardship Awards (Conservationist, Conservation Farmer & Tree Farmer) planned for January 2018. Seeking nominations! An awards banquet committee will be formed to plan for the upcoming event.
- Farmland Preservation Zoning – The Zoning Dept. Head, DATCP staff and I gave a presentation to Wellington Township concerning adopting FLP Zoning. 75 plus attended with a few traveling from neighboring townships. Well received by those attending, Wellington will pursue FLP zoning adoption depending on public interest.
- Agricultural Advisory Team: DATCP staff attended the March 30th meeting to explain the process for adopting FLP zoning. This was one of the tools explored to standardize soil & water conservation in Monroe County. The team agreed to hold off meeting again until the end of summer.
- Wisconsin Land & Water Association – Staff attended the 64th annual conference at Elkhart Lake March 15-17th. Conference well attended and a good variety of topics covered. I gave a presentation on Sparta's Phosphorous trading program and the Land Conservation Dept. role.
- Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group – Held its first meeting on March 23rd. Representative cross section of agency/groups/landowners working the county landscape were in attendance. Outlined goals, potential actions and invasive species problematic in Monroe County. Next meeting set for June 22nd.
- Streambank Easement Management Team – Developed this team to provide oversight and direction for the 80 plus fishing easements (27 miles) in Monroe County. This team will be charged with securing funds for fish habitat and vegetative management. First meeting was April 6th. **Recommend establishing a non-lapsing account** for funds donated by Sportsmen's clubs, trout unlimited chapters, private businesses, etc.
- Department Head meeting – Thursday, April 6th updated on department moves, policies and county board room access.
- County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) – Met March 23rd to discuss last year's final deer harvest numbers and management goals for 2017. Same quota's set for the Central Farmland and Forestland zones.

Meeting Schedule:

- April 27th – Tree Pickup 10am – 5:00 pm
- May 9th - Natural Resource & Extension Committee Meeting

April 11, 2017 -- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Christina Mulder

- **Farmland Preservation Program**
 - Gary and Sarah Gronemus in the Portland Township have enrolled 170 acres into FPP.
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**
 - David Linehan has enrolled 65 acres into a Perpetual CREP Easement in the Tomah Township which will buffer the Little Lemonwire. The City of Tomah is also providing incentives as part of their Phosphorous Reduction Movement.
 - Bill Wacker has enrolled 9 acres into a 15-Year CREP Agreement in the Lafayette Township.
- **Designs & Construction for Conservation Practices**
 - Working on designs and surveys for 2017.
- **Sparta High School Career Day**
 - Wednesday, March 1st was career day for all high school students in Sparta (SHS, Sails, High Point). I presented about my career in soil & water conservation by sharing photos, stories, and actual construction plans that have been recently implemented.

Bryce Richardson

- **Design of Conservation Practices**
 - Continue to complete designs for 2017 construction. Site visits and surveys as weather permits.
- **Nonmetallic Mining**
 - Kaufmann Quarry notice was published, presentation of the reclamation plan will be at the May meeting.
- **Presentations**
 - West Salem Environmental Day – Taught 150 4th graders about soils.
 - Contractor Workshop

Forestry & Parks Report (April) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- WCFA Spring Conference
- Monroe County Invasive Meeting
- Tri Creek Recon

Parks:

- Campground opened April 1st.



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Erin Eggert
Family Living Agent

Family Living Update March 14th to April 11, 2017

- StrongWomen
 - We finished the winter session and are gearing up to start the Spring session the week of April 23rd. Across the 7 classes (3 in Sparta, 3 in Tomah, and 1 in Cashton) we have 113 people enrolled.
 - Having a meeting tonight with my StrongWomen volunteers here in Monroe County- we have 10 people certified to teach now in the county. Some instructors were certified just to sub which is really helpful so that I can focus on other projects as well.
- StrongWomen- Statewide
 - I've been working out some kinks for the online Advanced training. We just finished the pilot group yesterday so I will be working on going through feedback and making changes from that. I was able to have one of my instructors go through the training which made it free of cost- otherwise a \$100.00 training. After I make changes the training will open up to other leaders across the state.
- Walk with Ease
 - I have been working on planning another physical activity program; Walk with Ease. This is a 6-week, 3x/week walking program. It's about 60 mins long. The first 15 mins is a short educational component and then there's a 20-45 min walk. This program was created specifically for those with arthritis but has been proven to be beneficial for all individuals. I serve as the pilot county for the state to see if this is a good walking program for Extension to utilize across the state.
 - I have partnered with the MC Health Department on this and Julie Anderson will be co-teaching it with me.
 - The program here starts the week of May 8th. It is Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 10AM. We meet at the Barney Center the first week and then

meet at various park shelters around Sparta during the following weeks. We'll be able to enjoy the scenery and the walking company! Cost is \$25 and includes a Walk with Ease book.

- Physical Activity Guidelines Committee Webinar
 - A committee is currently meeting to discuss the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans 2018. These guidelines are updated every 8 years or so. During the day-long webinar there were updates and discussions on physical activity and effects on topics like: youth, cardiovascular and metabolic disease, cancer, and more. It was a really interesting meeting! Excited to see what the new guidelines will be!
- Healthy Living Team: Active communities Workgroup
 - I am the co-facilitator of this work group. We conducted a survey in November of last year asking Family Living Agents across the state what kind of physical activity programming they were doing and what they were interested in doing or getting professional development on. We learned a lot from the survey- including that 33% of Family Living time across the state is focused on health promotion; an important topic with the health state of our nation and chronic diseases.
 - I am presenting the results of this information during our "4th Thursday focus on Family Living" webinar- an online webinar that Family Living Agents from across the state watch. It's an honor to be asked to present at this so I'm excited about it!
 - I was also approved to attend the National Wellness Conference in Saint Paul from 6/19-6/21. This is a prestigious conference that I hope to learn a lot from. I applied for and received a \$1200.00 ESP grant and a \$500 Health Living Team grant to be able to go to the conference, so I am really excited about that!
- Presentation on *Physical Activity and Nutrition for Older Adults*
 - I was asked to present at the HCE (Home Community Education) group's West District meeting. There were over 75 people in attendance! I was able to share information about types of physical activity, physical activity recommendations, nutrition recommendations, and more. I was also able to promote by two upcoming programs: Walk with Ease and StrongBodies.
 - I was also asked to present to the Monroe County Retired Educators Association- the topic just so happened to be the same as the HCE group, and on the same day! Huge coincidence! So I was able to present to ~20 of these individuals as well.
- Community Health Improvement Plan: Nutrition Workgroup

- I am on this workgroup and our goal is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption of Monroe County residents. We meet monthly.
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Continuing Events

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

Upcoming Events

- Untenured Faculty Meeting 4/12/17
- HealthTIDE Wavemaker Summit 5/8/17
- Women's Health Night at Cranberry Country Lodge 5/18/17
- National Wellness Conference 6/19-6/21
- Monroe County Fair 7/26-7/30



Joshua L. Goede

Shooting Sports

The county 4-H Shooting Sports tried a new format this year. They ran Archery and Air Rifle concurrently. They also added a weekly education component. The season wrapped up on March 29th. 38 youth participated in the archery fair shoot and 32 4-Hers participated in the air rifle fair shoot.

Child Abuse Prevention Taskforce

The Agent wrapped up his work with the Monroe County Child Abuse Prevention Taskforce. The proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month was April 4th, at the Sparta School District Administration Building. The cities of Tomah and Sparta were represented as well as Ft. McCoy.

WI 4-H Space Camp

The Agent will again head south from April 20-24. He will travel to Huntsville, AL with 168 WI 4-Hers, 5 from Monroe County. The Agent is working with the counselors who support the delegates as we travel. This year the counselors are partaking in a different program when we arrive at Space Camp this year. They will be part of the inaugural Pathfinder Robotics Program, a three-day intensive engineering, computer programming, and problem solving experience.

Festival of Arts

The Agent met with the committee for the Festival as they wrapped up the event and made plans for next year's festival

Fur, Fin, & Feather

Our annual Fur, Fin, & Feather program was on April 1st. There were over 100 rabbits entered in the show. The poultry show had increased participation as well. There were participants from as far away as Amherst and Polk County.

Summer Assistant

Jessica Hurtz, a former 4-Her from Cashton will join the Extension Staff in June. The Agent has been laying the ground work for her projects so she hit the ground running.

Continuing Programs

- Community Learning Centers
 - April will be final lessons
 - Working in April on scientific vocabulary
- Jr. Leaders
 - Meeting May 20,
 - Will Plan Clover Camp for June 17th
- Monroe County Safe Community Coalition
 - Working on training for Alcohol Agent 4 Change
- Youth Protection Program
 - Trained 1 adult volunteer in March
 - Will train 4 volunteers in April
 - Materials prepared for next 12 adults entering the system.
- 2018 Monroe County 4-H Plat Book

COMING SOON

- Space Camp April 20-24, Huntsville AL
- Summer Assistant, Jessica Hurtz Starts June 7



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Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Update March 14, 2017 through April 10, 2017

Greenhouse visits were conducted to diagnose problems in bedding plant greenhouses. Problems were due to the stretch of cloudy cool weather and one location had some plants get an accidental exposure to herbicide. The Ag Agent is working on scheduling a day of visits with UW Plant disease and insect specialists for the greenhouses sometime in late April- early May.

A final Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Workshop was held on March 24th at Tomah. DATCP decided to no longer send out re-newal notices this past year, and that interfered with people not knowing to get their license renewed.

The Ag Agent worked with a farm to evaluate different options to expand their cattle feeding operation. The discussion revolved around the use of some outdoor pen use for a few years then transitioning to a building.

The Ag Agent taught a 4-H Adult Volunteer shotgun project certification training to 9 adult 4-H leaders, and Scholastic Clay Target Program Coaches from various counties on April 1, 2017.

The Ag Agent has been identifying cooperators and setting up summer field trials and demonstrations. To date field projects include two nitrogen rate on corn trials, building on last year's trial, an herbicide demonstration on soybeans that will be part of the summer crops field day, sampling and evaluating soils on farms utilizing cover crops, nitrogen trial on hops, a cucumber beetle control trial in vegetable crops, and

Ag Agents in Monroe, Grant and Richland County will be cooperating with UW River Falls Faculty to conduct a regional beef cow-calf reproduction workshop in southwestern Wisconsin in early summer.

There has been a much greater than usual increase in questions on moles in lawns and fence laws this past month.

Upcoming Events- more to be added as they get finalized

April 11- Jr. Livestock Committee Meeting
April 14- County Fair Planning meeting
April 24- Driftless Region Beef
May 5-6 4-H Shooting Sports leader training- Phillips
June 3 Monroe County Dairy Breakfast
June 19-21 Tractor Safety
July- Crops Field Day- Tomah
July 26-30 Monroe County Fair
Aug 2 Carcass Judging