

Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting – August 8, 2017
Monroe County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

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

Also Present: C. Ziegler (Forestry), B. Micheel (LC), J. Roll (Hist), A. Karrels (Deke Slayton Museum) B. Halfman (UW-EXT), E. Eggert (UW-EXT) C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), S. Davison (DNR- Forester)

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

Call to Order: Chair VanWychen called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Public Comment Period: None

Approve Minutes from the July 11th NR & Extension Meeting: The Committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by M. Halverson, seconded by D. Hall. Motion carried, 5-0-1.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: A. Karrels reported on the different fundraisers and how well they turned out. Karrels gave an update on the wall repair and stated a new ceiling was installed over the kid's area. Karrels announced the Space Camp was a real success with 8 students attending and looking to increase attendance next year. Brian Lee donated two scholarships totaling \$800 which allowed one boy and one girl to attend the Space Camp.

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto- J. Roll reviewed July expenditures, the 2018 Budget, and presented report to the committee (attached). J. Roll reported that County Supervisor Jim Bialecki approved reinstating the Museum Services Associate's hours back to 28 per week for the 2018 Budget. J. Roll gave an update on the water damage at the Wegner Grotto County Park which occurred as a result of precipitation and inadequate drainage. J. Roll also reminded the committee about the "Art Outdoors" to be held at the Wegner Grotto County Park on Saturday, Aug. 26th. Roll also announced the 7th Annual "Spirit Walk" to be held at the Oakdale Cemetery in Oakdale, WI on Sunday August 27th from 1:00-2:30 pm. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve the Local History Room reports, seconded by M. Halverson as submitted. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Review July Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed expenditures, report attached.
2. **Review/Approve Proposed 2018 Budget:** B. Micheel reviewed the proposed 2018 budget.
3. **Review/Approve Resolution for a non-Lapsing Account:** Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve the Resolution for the non-Lapsing Account for the Conservation Stewardship Awards Banquet, seconded by M. Halverson. Motion carried 5-0-1.
4. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel presented the departmental report to the committee (attached). Micheel gave an oral presentation with pictures regarding the July 20th Flood Damage.
5. **Soil & Water Conservationist Reports:** Richardson's & Mulder not present, reports (attached).
6. **Review/Approve Cost-Share Agreements:** B. Micheel presented two Cost- Share agreements for stream restoration on Brush Creek: J. Schroeder made a motion to approve Menno Hershberger total \$4,625-70% cost share \$3,237.50 and John Helmuth total \$5,550 - 70% cost share \$3,885, seconded by D. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0-1.

NRCS Report: None

DNR Reports:

1. **Private Lands:** S. Davison gave an update regarding the Deer Management Program and noting the Deer Advisory Meeting scheduled on August 22nd at 7:00.
2. **Warden:** None
3. **MFL:** None

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler presented his department report (attached).
2. **Park non-lapsing Account:** Motion was made by J. Schroeder to approve the Resolution for a non-lapsing Capital Improvements Account for the Park Dept. seconded by D. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0-1.
3. **2018 Budget Review:** C. Ziegler presented the 2018 Budget.
4. **Angelo Canoe/Kayak Launch Discussion:** C. Ziegler discussed the need for improving and maintaining the launch access below the Angelo Dam on WDOT property. The committee recommended that he continue doing research and come back with a proposal.
5. **Review Forestry & Parks Expenditures:** C. Ziegler reviewed the July 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 July Expenditures**
2. **Review/Approve Proposed 2018 Budget:** B. Halfman discussed 2018 budget.
3. **4H & Youth Development Report (Goede & Hurtz) –B. Halfman presented reports for Goede and Hurtz (attached)**
4. **Family Living Report (Eggert) –report attached.**
5. **Agriculture Report (Halfman) –report attached.**

*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, September 12th 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 M. Halverson, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried, 4-0-1.*

Recorder: Connie Holzl



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

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

Highlighted Projects and Activities by Team

- Provided educational programming to Sparta summer school students and to area day care kids visiting the Local History Room
- Promoted and hosted the public program by Scot Simpson about the history of the Monroe County Poor Farm/Asylum—over 60 people turned out!
- Provided educational programming to Sparta Garden Club about gravestone and cemetery preservation
- Continued planning and promoting *Art Outdoors at the Wegner Grotto*, including ordering items for the event
- Installed a new 3-D viewer display, *“Wish You Were Here: A 3-D Trip Out West, 1955.”* Created image identification labels, generated graphics, printed and mounted graphics; wrote press release to promote the exhibit
- Continued planning and fundraising for *“Monroe County: A to Z”* exhibit: generated a list of area businesses, organizations, and community foundations from which to apply for funding; generated and mailed out letters to same; applied for multiple grants; modified exhibit design, finalizing layout, artifacts, and interactives; scouted southern Monroe County locals for ideal “unglaciated” landscapes and tobacco barns.
- Processed recent donations to LHR (assign accession numbers, photograph, assist with cataloging, assign to a home location)
- Created two pages of 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; checked fire extinguishers; processed new donation offerings; conferred with Alli Karrels 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): runs Facebook; teaches students; assists 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 cemetery records; 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
- Angelina Ebert: indexing WWI Army Transport Service Records

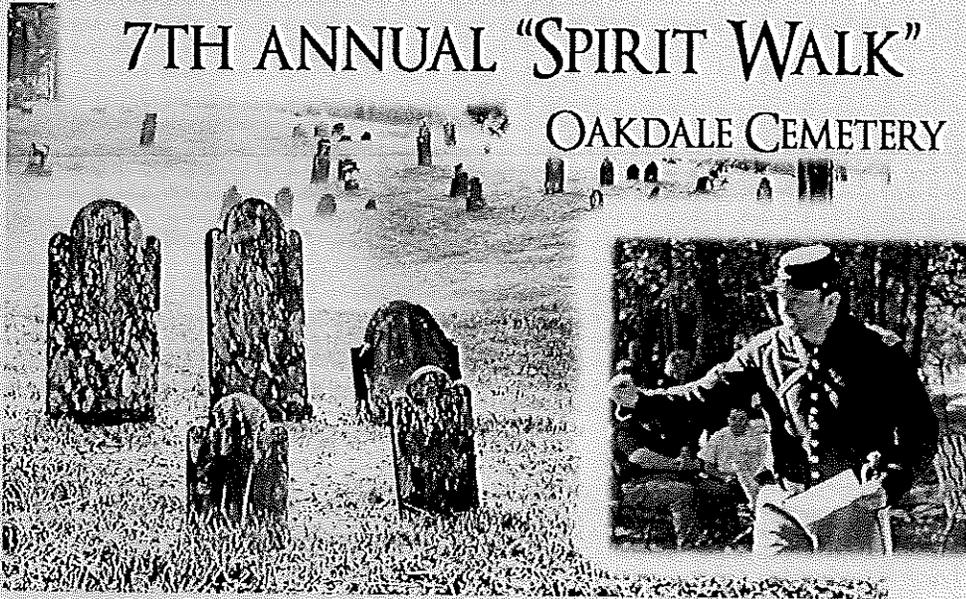
200 West Main Street Sparta, Wisconsin 54656-2141
608-269-8680 • Fax: 608-269-8921

Email: MCLHR@centurytel.net • www.MonroeCountyHistory.org • www.Facebook.com/mclhr

The Local History Room & Monroe County Historical Society Jointly Present...

7TH ANNUAL "SPIRIT WALK"

OAKDALE CEMETERY



See the live "Spirits" of Oakdale's pioneers as they stage an educational account of their life.

Hear why people came to Oakdale and how it got its name.

Learn how to properly clean your family's gravestones.

Spirit Walk Program

Presented by the Monroe Co Historical Society
& Monroe Co Local History Room



1:00-2:30pm Sunday, August 27, 2017
Oakdale Cemetery, Oakdale, WI
(1 mile south of Oakdale on Co. Hwy. N)

Bring your lawn chair for an entertaining
and educational afternoon!



For More Info: www.facebook.com/MCLHR or 608-269-8680

This is a free program but donations are greatly appreciated to defray programming costs.

RESOLUTION No. _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A NON-LAPSING CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP AWARDS and BANQUET ACCOUNT

WHEREAS, Monroe County has lapsed in the practice of having an annual banquet to recognize local land stewardship efforts; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County Land Conservation Department last hosted a Conservation Stewardship Awards Banquet in 1991 to recognize the efforts of farmers, conservationists, tree farmers and youth in the county; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources and Extension Committee supports re-instituting the banquet and awards program as it will further the purposes set out in Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the banquet will be funded through banquet ticket sales and donations; and

WHEREAS, the donations and the proceeds from the ticket sales will be for the sole purpose of the banquet and the stewardship awards; and

WHEREAS, §92.07 of the Wisconsin Statutes grants extensive administrative management authority to the Land Conservation Committee to administer conservation programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Monroe County Board of Supervisors that they do hereby authorize the Finance Department to establish a non-lapsing Conservation Stewardship account to hold the ticket sale proceeds and donations for the purpose of an annual banquet and awards program.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED by the Monroe County Board of Supervisors that the Land Conservation Committee is authorized to approve expenditures from that account for the banquet and awards program.

Dated this 23rd day of August, 2017.

Offered by the Natural Resources and Extension Committee

Purpose: This resolution will authorize setting up a non-lapsing account to hold ticket sales and donations made for an annual conservation banquet and awards program.

Fiscal note: This resolution will require a simple majority vote of the entire membership of the Monroe County Board of Supervisors for approval. Further, the resolution authorized the Land Conservation Committee to approve spending from this account for the limited purpose of the annual banquet and awards program.

<p>Finance Vote (If required): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Absent</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Approved as to form on _____ _____ Andrew C. Kaftan, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p>Committee of Jurisdiction Forwarded on: _____, 20__</p> <p>VOTE: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Absent</p> <p>Committee Chair: _____ _____ _____</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDED</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____</p> <p>County Board Vote on: _____ 20__ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Absent</p>	<p>STATE OF WISCONSIN COUNTY OF MONROE I, SHELLEY R. BOHL, Monroe County Clerk, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution # _____ acted on by the Monroe County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held on _____.</p> <p>_____ SHELLEY R. BOHL, MONROE COUNTY CLERK <i>A raised seal certifies an official document.</i></p>

August 8, 2017 LCD- Staff Reports

Bob Micheel- County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- July 27th Flood – Many landowners in the southern half of the county calling our office for assistance and or direction on property damage after 7-10" rain. Referred them to 211 for property damage; staff spent about a week evaluating damage. A few dams and waterways sustained damage and will need repair. On-going stream work and below bridges received the brunt of the damage. Estimating 1,000 feet of riprap needs repair.
- PL566 Structures – Vernon County mowed the 8 dams last week of July. Three of the structures (CC-23, CC-29 & CC-31) emergency spillways ran during the July 27th flood; which I'm assuming is a first since they were constructed. The Baltz Dam (CC-25) pond drain plugged and no water was passing through the principle pipe. Worked with Mike Flock (Hwy Dept.) and used their double 4-trash pump to drain the pond. Took a little over 40 hours over the weekend to drain and unplug sediment from the pipe inlet. Monday July 31st the structure was back operating normal with the pond drain functioning? Informed landowners the trash rack needs to stay on the pond drain; which wasn't prior to the flood.
- Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group Update: Today staff are holding a "Train the Mower" workshop for County Hwy patrolman at the department headquarters in Sparta. Staff plan to give an invasive species presentation at the next Town's Association meeting coming up in August.
- Monroe County Stewardship Awards Update – Tree farmer, Conservation Farmer, and Conservationist nominations being accepted. September 1st deadline. Received a couple names for Conservation Farmer of the Year. UWEX column promoting the award nominations last week.
- Conservation Matters – Our conservation dept. will be unveiling a column this week in the Sparta paper. First article highlights our staff and general programs. This will give us an opportunity to highlight various programs/issues throughout the year. Target 6-10 articles per year.
- Mississippi Valley Conservancy (MVC) – Held an informal picnic information sharing event on the John Durbrow property. Opportunity to discuss Monroe County efforts and learn more about the MVC and their mission in the driftless area.
- Phosphorous Trading – Oak Brook TU traveled to Sparta to build LUNKERS on July 29th for another segment of Beaver Creek behind the farmers market. Meeting with the Village of Norwalk and their consultant later today to outline trading options and potential areas to focus.
- ATC Mitigation Funds – Review potential funding options (Stream repairs, maintenance, and Tri-Creek property).

Meeting Schedule:

- August 16th – Tri-Creek Land Use Committee
- August 17th – Lake Tomah Meeting
- August 22nd – CDAC meeting
- August 25, 26th – USFW Necedah 30 year celebration
- September 1st – Conservation Stewardship Award Deadline
- September 5th – Conservation Stewardship Awards Committee
- September 12th – Natural Resource & Extension Committee meeting

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

Christina Mulder

- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**
 - Preparing re-enrolls for the October 1, 2017 start date
 - Working with the DATCP State office to prepare the perpetual easements
- **Designs & Construction for Conservation Practices**
 - Designing projects (dams, riprap, and stream crossings) for this year
 - Construction going on at Witt, Baldwin, and Thayer
 - Some construction has been affected from excessive rainstorms. Grass has not been established on streambanks and grassed waterways so gullies are forming during rain events. Contractors will need to repair the projects before payment goes out.

Bryce Richardson

- **Design of Conservation Practices**
 - Completed 724 lin ft. of riprap. (Wacker, Muehlenkamp) Ongoing construction and design.
- **Nonmetallic Mining**
 - Received a reclamation plan for Wisconsin White Sands 2. Quite a few changes required before it can be brought to the Committee for approval.

Forestry & Parks Report (August) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Meeting for ATC Mitigation funding
- Snowmobile Claim submitted: \$106,492.00
- Snowmobile Trail mapping
- Reviewed timber sales and contract due dates
- Invasive spraying
- Timber sale set up

Parks:

- Department Head Meeting
- Firewood cutting/splitting
- Pavement work
- Storm damage cleanup

1 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A NON-LAPSING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ACCOUNT**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, Monroe County has been providing public recreation opportunities since
4 1958 with the construction of Wazeda Park (currently McMullen Memorial County Park); and
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the demand for recreational opportunities, improved facilities and
7 operational costs have increased substantially during the past 59 years; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Monroe County Park Department has returned significant amounts
10 of surplus revenue to the General Fund in the past several years; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the fees charged to campers at Monroe County parks should be used to
13 maintain and improve the parks for future use; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the Natural Resources and Extension Committee realizes that the park
16 will need significant Capital Improvements in the future; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, future funding sources for these repairs and updates is unknown.
19

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Monroe County Board of Supervisors
21 that they do hereby authorize the Finance Department to reassign up to Twenty Thousand
22 Dollars (\$20,000) of the Park Department's surplus revenue each year going forward. Surplus
23 revenue shall be determined upon the close of the fiscal year accounting. These funds will be
24 placed in a Parks Capital Improvements account, which shall be a non-lapsing account with a
25 maximum balance of \$150,000.00.
26

27 Dated this 23rd day of August, 2017.
28

29 Offered by the Natural Resources and Extension Committee
30

31 **Purpose:** This resolution will authorize a non-lapsing capital improvement account for the
32 Park Department to have funds for future park repairs and improvements.
33

34 **Fiscal note:** This resolution will authorize reassignment of surplus park revenue, for 2017
35 and future years, into a Park Capital Improvements account. Per Wisconsin Statute sec.
36 65.90 this resolution will require a 2/3rds vote of the entire membership of the Monroe County
37 Board of Supervisors for approval. Spending of these funds will also require a 2/3rds majority
38 unless the improvements are included in the annual county budget.

Reviewed as to form on _____ _____ Andy Kaftan, Corporation Counsel	Committee of Jurisdiction Forwarded on: _____ 20____ ____ Yes ____ No ____ Absent Committee Chair: _____ _____ _____
Finance Vote (If required): ____ Yes ____ No ____ Absent	
<input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ County Board Vote on: _____ 20____ ____ Yes ____ No ____ Absent	STATE OF WISCONSIN COUNTY OF MONROE I, SHELLEY R. BOHL, Monroe County Clerk, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution # _____ acted on by the County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held on _____ _____ SHELLEY R. BOHL, MONROE COUNTY CLERK (A raised seal certifies an official document)

Family Living Update July 11th to August 8th, 2017

- StrongWomen
 - Summer classes have a few weeks left. We had really good participation in the summer classes- much higher from last year. I think that's from having the classes at 8am rather than 5:30pm in the hot summer nights.
 - Fall classes are planned. We'll have 5 classes: 2 in Sparta, 2 in Tomah, and 1 in Cashton. I wanted to try out a 5:30pm class here in Sparta, but no one was willing to teach it!
 - Registration for the Fall classes started yesterday and numbers are doing well.
- StrongWomen- Statewide
 - The Advanced training has been rolled out statewide and people are really liking it. I'm hoping soon that some of my other instructors will want to take the Advanced training as well- they must have taught the class for a minimum of 6 months.
- Walk with Ease
 - In collaboration with the Health Department we applied for a Wisconsin Institute of Healthy Aging grant for WWE- and we got it! The \$500 grant allowed us to pay for 2 instructors and to purchase books so we are able to offer the class for free.
 - DeDe Nelson is our new instructor- she was just certified with the grant money and will be co-teaching a class in Tomah with me this fall.
 - We're in our second session now- numbers are low, but to be expected for the summer. Next session starts first week in September and we'll have classes in both Sparta and Tomah, so we'll be interested to see what numbers will be like for that.
- Monroe County Fair
 - Helped Josh out in the exhibit hall

- National Night Out
 - I had a booth on physical activity & nutrition for youth. I had a spinner wheel and kids could answer a question and get a pencil.
 - Participation was great and we had a lot of people there! Always a good, fun event!
- Community Health Improvement Plan: Nutrition Workgroup
 - We skipped our July meeting so we're still working on finding grant money for the workgroup to support projects.
 - I met with Marcia Pederson from Second Harvest to talk about partnership in working with nutrition education for the food pantries.
 - I attended a school backpack meeting on Aug 3rd. This is a program for kids to take home food items to create meals at home so they don't go hungry. I'm reporting to the Nutrition workgroup with what I learned to see if we would like to be involved in this project.
- Safe & Healthy Food Pantry Project: Monroe County
 - Grant has FINALLY been released! It is due in October so we are working on writing that to fund the implementation phase of our project which we started in early 2016.

Continuing Events

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

Upcoming Events

- Taking Care of You- Facilitator Training (Sept 19)
- HealthTIDE Active Communities Meeting (Sept 29)
- HealthTIDE Schools Team Meeting (Oct 19)



Jessica Hurtz

Monroe County Fair

During the week of the Monroe County Fair, the summer assistant assisted as a manager in the youth exhibit hall. The assistant worked alongside the agent to set up the exhibit hall, assist within the different departments during judging, and answered questions for youth, exhibitors, and spectators during the 2017 Monroe County Fair.

Summer Assistant Summary

I would first like to begin by thanking you for the opportunity to work for the Monroe County UW-Extension Office as the summer assistant. This position has allowed me to grow not only as a professional but also personally. I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many 4-H youth and their families during the summer programs put on through the UW-Extension Office.

I had the opportunity to coordinate and organize many of the summer programs offered to the 4-H youth. The following are the summer programs that were offered: the annual 3rd-6th day trip that allowed youth to explore natural resources available in Wisconsin; Boys and Girls Science Day focused on having youth conduct a variety of experiments that were differentiated to fit the students and their developmental level; and Cloverbud Camp that focused on exploring water through a water density experiment and a stream table that showed the

effects of water on the environment.

Uplam Woods Open Enrollment Summer Camp will allow me to interact with many of the youth I have met during my time as the summer assistant. While at summer camp, I will assist in ensuring the safety of the youth participating in camp as well as organizing the arts and craft time. During our arts and craft time, youth will focus on topography by creating his/her own island as the theme for the camp this year is Island Exploring. Youth will use their knowledge on landforms to help create their own topographical 3-D map using playdough. Each of the summer programs and managerial positions that I was placed in has allowed me to use past experiences and prior knowledge while coordinating, running, and assisting within each program. These positions have also provided me with additional strategies and tools that I will be able to carry over into my third grade classroom setting.

Thank you again for this opportunity. It has been an absolutely wonderful experience. 4-H has provided me with so many great opportunities as a youth and now again as an extension employee. As an educator, I will be able to take this experience and use items from the educational programs and incorporate some of it into a classroom setting.

Coming Soon:

Summer Programs:

- **August 18- 20: State Dog Show- Tomah, WI**
- **August 19: Last Day at UW-Extension, Monroe County Office**



Joshua L. Goede

Arts Camp

The Agent is a co-chair on the steering committee for the statewide Arts Camp held in October at Upham Woods in the Wisconsin Dells. The Agent will serve as the camp director. The Agent and the State staff have selected the camp staff and established a schedule for the training weekend on August, 26-27. There are 20 youth signed up to staff the camp with different roles. Camp enrollment is open until August, 21.

Monroe County Fair

The Monroe County Fair was July 26-30 and the UWEX office was there to help with displays and judging of the exhibits. We had almost perfect fair weather for our week of excitement. Many lessons learned and memories made. Thank you to the committee for your support of our fair activities.

Monroe County 4-H Summer Camp

Details are finishing up for 4-H Summer Camp. Camp will be August 5-8, hence the Agent and Summer Asst.'s absence. There are 27 Monroe County youth attending Base 4-H Camp and 16 Monroe County youth at the Outpost Experience. Base Camp this year will be planned by Upham Woods and executed with assistance from Monroe and LaCrosse County 4-H Professionals. The theme is Black Hawk Island and will have a lot of water activities. There will be 6 Monroe County adults helping with camp events. All the kids are excited for "Grandpa Joe" to teach archery again.

Jr. Leader's Road Trip

Jr. Leaders will be headed to CHI-town on the 15th of Aug. We will stop at Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center to tour the base and facility. A 4-H mom works there and will lead a tour. We will continue to the house they rented to house the 21 people that are planning on traveling.

Wisconsin State 4-H Dog Show

Monroe County is hosting the 2017 WS4-H Dog Show and planning is in full swing. There will be 250 4-H dogs and trainers in Tomah on August 18-20. Tomah is excited to see the possible 800 exhibitors and guests. There will be Dog Bowl on Friday night. Obedience is all day Saturday and Rally will be Sunday. Arts and photos will be on display all weekend. There will be a concession stand for spectators. All are welcome to come watch.

Continuing Programs

- **Community Learning Centers**
 - The Agent is looking at stepping away from CLCs in the county and looking at special programs to bring into the programs a couple of times a year instead of the monthly lessons.
- **Jr. Leaders**
 - The Ice Cream stand was a better success for the county fair. The youth chose to leave Schwan's as a vendor and went with Kwik Trip, they gave a 5% discount and stored extra
 - Chicago Experience planned for August 15-17, 2017.
 - We will serve at the Pacific Garden Mission and tour the Navy Base among other attractions of Chicago.
- **Monroe County Safe Community Coalition**
 - Had our second meeting to develop Marijuana curricula for training with 9th grade students to teach them how to teach it to 6th grade students in 2017-18.
 - There will be a Public Service Announcement before movies in Sparta starring 3 4-Hers explaining the truth about Marijuana.
 - 4-H is worked into the 17-19 United Way Grant to bring AODA training to Cashton and N.O.W.
- **Youth Protection Program**
 - Working on finding a class time for final 2016-17 adults to attend.

COMING SOON

- 2017 4-H Summer Camp & Outpost, Aug 5-8
- 2017 Jr. Leader Road Trip to Chicago, Aug 15-17
- 2017 State 4-H Dog Show, Tomah, Aug 18-20
- 2017 Monroe County Plat Book arrives October

Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Highlights Update July 11, 2017 through August 8, 2017

Plot work continues with the various trials.

- On the corn nitrogen plot, we measured leaf color with both the Crop Circle and the drone with the RedEdge camera. We deep soil sampled to measure soil profile nitrogen twice. The corn is tasseled and now we wait to measure yield.
- The State Hop Field Day will be at the plot on August 10th. Harvest will occur this month.
- We began treatments on the squash on August 1. We collected additional beetles from a nearby organic zucchini field to raise numbers in the plot prior to beginning treatments. Treatments will be once a week for three weeks.

County Fair preparations, the fair itself and carcass evaluation was also completed during the past month. The Ag Agent is involved in numerous behind the scenes aspects of the fair including preparations before the fair, weigh in of animals, sorting weight classes and related paperwork and many other tasks. The Ag Agent also organizes carcass evaluation.

Bryce, the Multi-county Ag Intern conducted soil physical property testing on a farm using cover crops near Cataract. The sandy site is a nice complimentary site to the finer soils he evaluated in Buffalo and Chippewa Counties.

The wet weather continues to cause for many people. The fresh produce growers are dealing with greater than normal plant disease problems this year. Site visits were conducted to help diagnose the problems.

There have also been an unusually high number of Japanese beetles this year. There have been numerous calls regarding how to protect plants in the garden, and field crops from them.

Upcoming Events- more to be added as they get finalized

Aug 9 Cranberry Field Day- Warrens

Aug 10 Hops Growers Summery Field Day- Tomah