Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting – January 9, 2017
Monroe County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

Committee Members present: N. VanWychen, D. Pierce, M. Halverson, J. Schroeder, M. Cook, and D. Hall
Also Present: C. Ziegler (Forestry), B. Micheel (LC), C. Mulder (LC), B. Richardson (LC), M. Komiskey (NRCS), J. Roll (Hist), E. Eggert (UW-EXT), J. Goede(UW-EXT), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), Mark & Margaret Roberts (Tri Creek LO), Kris & Brad Murphy (Potential Tri Creek LO) , Ron Luethe (Town of Ridgeville Supervisor), John Casler (Whitetail Properties Realtor), Andy Kaftan(Corp Council)

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 December 12th NR & Extension Meeting: The Committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by D. Pierce, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 6-0.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: None

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto- Local History Room/Wegner Grotto- J. Roll reviewed December expenditures and presented report to the committee (attached)**.**

1. **Update of special exhibit development progress in regards to hours of service:** J. Roll gave an update on the progress of Monroe County A to Z exhibit. Roll stated they are within $700 of their fundraising goal. He also reported that the History Room will be closed to the public Jan. 15-20 so that the exhibit team can work on the project.
2. **Discuss/approve Local History Room Budget Adjustment:** J. Roll is waiting at this time until he has the final amounts.

Motion was made by M. Halverson to approve the local History Room reports, seconded by D. Pierce. Motion carried 6-0.

NRCS Report: M. Komiskey gave an update on four applications funded at this time for reducing sediment and phosphorous. Nineteen yet to be considered in the Local Work Group Signup. Komiskey reported 8 CSP Contracts funded cover 1928 acres. Komiskey mentioned the Trout Unlimited was awarded another 5 million dollars for putting funds up for future projects in the Driftless area for habitat. Funding to begin in 2019.

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Tri-Creek Property Sale/Easement Modification (Review/Approve)** (Micheel). Discussion with the Tri-Creek land owners Mark & Margaret Roberts along with potential buyers Kris & Brad Murphy. Roberts requesting modification of easement the Land Conservation holds on the 79 acre parcel. The easement is very restrictive on landowner development rights along with operation and maintenance of the PL566 flood control structure that was built in the 70's. They are proposing freeing up some of the restrictions. Namely to nullify the first right of refusal, dwelling limit of one, and to clarify public access to the water.
   The Committee asks the Roberts to submit their request in writing, clarifying the modifications that they are seeking to the Land Conservation Department. Micheel will consult with Kaftan (Corp Council) on request and response prior to the next committee meeting.
2. **Review December Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed expenditures. (report attached).

3. **Budget Adjustment-Review/Approve** (Micheel): B. Micheel proposed purchasing a 50"monitor ($1000) for the LCD Conference room at the 820 Industrial Drive location along with two new monitors ($15,000) for the County Board Assembly room, using the funds the LC Staff receive for time spent on Federal Projects. Motion was made by J. Schroeder to approve the two Budget Adjustment's as presented by Micheel, seconded by D. Pierce. Motion Carried 6-0.
4. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel presented department report to the committee (attached). Micheel gave an update regarding the Land Stewardship Awards Banquet. Micheel announced Megan Mickelson of DNR Forest Ranger is the new chair for the Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group and Mic Armstrong NRCS Tech will continue as the scribe.
5. **Soil & Water Conservationist Reports:** B. Richardson reported all surveys for 2018 projects are completed. Richardson mentioned the poster contest deadline was Friday January 5th. Richardson reported the Judging to take place during a break in the meeting. Richardson stated the 2018 Annual Fee and Annual Report have been sent to all permitted Nonmetallic Mines in Monroe County. C. Mulder gave an update on CREP and Conservation Practices Designs & Construction. Mulder also reported Paul Klinkner is re-enrolling 198.25 acres along with Paul & Gerald Klinkner's Shared Farm enrolling 182.64 acres. Mulder is creating Conservation plans for enrolled Participants. (Reports attached).
6. **Review/Approve Cost-Share Agreements:** C. Mulder presented requests for Nutrient Management Cost Sharing for M&S Trail View Acres with 65 acres for the amount of $1,820 and Riedesel Revocable Trust with 105 acres for $2,940. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to approve Nutrient Management Cost Share Agreements for M & S Trail View Acres for $1,820, and Riedesel Revocable Trust for $2,940, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 6-0.*

DNR Reports:

1. **Private Lands**: None
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).
2. **Review/Approve Park Line Item Transfers:** *Motion was made by J. Schroeder to approve Park Line transfer of $650 from the Motor Vehicle Account to Park Supplies ($500) and Electricity ($150), seconded by D. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0.*
3. **Review/Approve Repurpose of funds: 1-ton Dump Truck Purchase:** *Motion was made by J.Schoeder to repurpose $11,750 from Capital Improvements Account (shed addition), the money will be repurposed for a one ton dump truck, seconded by M. Halverson. Motion carried 5-0.*
4. **Review/Approve Repurpose of funds: Pavement Resurfacing:** *Motion by J. Schroeder to repurpose $13,250 from the Capital Improvement Account (shed addition) for pavement resurfacing, seconded by D. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0.*
5. **Review/Approve 2018 Budget Adjustment: Pavement resurfacing:** *Motion made by J. Schroeder to approve Budget Adjustment of $30,0000 from General Fund Balance Applied (excess 2017 Park Revenue) to 2018 Capital Improvement, seconded by D. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0.*
6. **Resolution Increasing the Number of Seasonal Sites at McMullen Park:** Decided not to pursue at this time.
7. **Review Forestry & Parks Expenditures:** C. Ziegler reviewed the December monthly expenditures.

County Farm Education Funds – Monroe County Ag Society for Building Expansion Project:

Extension Office Business:

1. **Review of December Expenditures**
2. **4H & Youth Development Report** (Goede) – report attached.
3. **Family Living Report** (Eggert) Eggert gave an update on the StrongBodies Program and discussed the surveys given to participants. Eggert mentioned she was asked to oversee the Strong Women program in Vernon County until they find a replacement for the Family Living Agent who recently retired. –report attached.
4. **Agriculture Report** (Saxe) – presented B. Halfman's report in his absence. Chair VanWychen stated would like to see job descriptions regarding the current title of the Youth & Family Extension Educator positions. Discussion followed with Saxe speaking of the changes in job roles -report attached.

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

The next meeting will be held Thursday, February 15th at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Motion to adjourn: *was made at 11:50 a.m. by J. Schroeder, second by M. Cook. Motion carried, 5-0.*

Recorder: Connie Holzl

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LHR Director / County Historian's Report, December 2017

Submitted by Jarrod Roll

Highlighted Projects and Activities by Jarrod and Team

- Continued planning and fundraising for "Monroe County A-Z" exhibit; generating content, writing text, designing exhibit elements, and assembling images; had planning meeting with Pica Grove; continued with the fundraising process, following up with potential donors and sending thank you letters to those who contributed
- Coordinated volunteers and promoted "Winter Break Craft Day at the Museums" event scheduled for December 28th
- Continued promoting 1950s Christmas display, including doing interviews for TV and a newspaper and providing tours of the display to groups from schools, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, clubs, and organizations.
- Promoted and hosted "See Santa at the History Room" event (record attendance day!)
- Met with Representative Vandermeer at the Wegner Grotto County Park about the Grotto drainage issue
- Created replacement signage for the Wegner Grotto County Park
- Coordinated upcoming exhibit about Ft. McCoy archaeology with the archaeologists, discussing content and design
- Continued planning 2018 History Live series of public lectures
- 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
- 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

January 9, 2018 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel- County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Newspaper - Conservation Matters – Tomah Journal will add the Conservation Matters column. The Sparta paper is running the Stewardship Award winner interviews and promoting the banquet.
- Monroe County Stewardship Awards Committee – Last meeting was held on January 5th to finalize the stewardship banquet. Sell tickets!!
- Manure Spill – Permitted farms receiving the most complaints, latest spill - East Town Dairy.
- Conservation/Cover Crop Workshop – UWEX/LCD/NRCS will hold a landowner workshop focusing on conservation compliance, cover crops, FLP Program, rain simulator demo, etc. Meeting scheduled for February 2nd.
- PL 566 Dams –The December pond (Luckason Dam) draw down was halted because of weather. Pond drain functioning but not keeping up with inflow.
- Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group – Megan Mickelson (DNR Forest Ranger) is the new chair and Mic Armstrong (NRCS Tech) will continue as the scribe! Group working on annual goals, MOU and Hold Harmless agreement and CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) development, a modern version of the Cooperative Weed Management Area. The idea is to form a group within a geographical area

Meeting Schedule:

- January 18th – Lake Tomah Committee & State Technical Committee
- January 27th – Land Stewardship Awards Banquet
- February 1st – Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group
- February 2nd – Cover Crop/Conservation workshop
- February 5-6th – Driftless Symposium
- February 8th – Awards Committee
- February 13th – Natural Resource & Extension Committee

January 9, 2018 -- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Christina Mulder

- **Farmland Preservation Program**
  - Paul Klinkner (Jefferson) is re-enrolling 198.25 acres.
  - Paul & Gerald Klinkner's joint farm (Jefferson) is enrolling 182.64 acres.
  - Creating Conservation Plans for enrolled participants
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**
- **Designs & Construction for Conservation Practices**

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**
  - All surveys for 2018 projects are completed. Designs will be completed throughout the winter months.
  - Poster Contest deadline Friday January 5th.
- **Nonmetallic Mining**
  - 2018 Annual Fee and Annual Report has been sent to all permitted Nonmetallic Mines in Monroe County. Payment due by January 31, 2018.

Forestry & Parks Report (January) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Timber Sale Administration
    - 138
    - Sale 139 extension

- Timber sale set up & pre-work
    - Tract 2-18
    - Tract 3-18
    - And others
- Recon updates
    - Post sale updates
    - Past due stands

- Boundary establishment
    - Lincoln
    - Grant

Parks:

- Tree Vandalism

Snowmobile:

- ARCGIS mapping updates
- Maintenance approvals

Monroe County UW-Extension
14345 County Highway B, Room 1
Sparta, WI 54656-0309

Phone: 608-269-8722
Fax: 608-366-1809
Dial 711 for Wisconsin Relay
http://monroe.uwex.edu/

Erin Eggert
Youth & Family Extension Educator

Youth & Family Educator Update December 12, 2017 to January 9th, 2018.

- StrongBodies
  - The Winter session starts on January 22nd. Numbers are very good- we have 115 registered (as of 1/3). I have put out a few newspaper articles through my "Be Well with Erin" column and we also have a lot of word of mouth that contributes to the numbers.
  - I've also spent a lot of time this past week with data evaluation at the state level and at the local level. Attached is a local report for the 2017 year of the StrongBodies program. We've had huge success with the program these past two years.
- Volunteer Management Essentials Training
  - Attended a half-day training in the Dells
  - Taught about effective management of volunteers and effective recruitment strategies for volunteers.
  - Plan to use this knowledge with StrongBodies volunteers and others moving forward.

Continuing Events

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

Upcoming Events

- School Food Program Meeting 1/10/18
- HCE Leadership Day 2/7/18

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Monroe County

2017 StrongWomen Evaluation

January 3rd 2018, 10:17 am MST

Q33 - Is this the first session you have participated or are you a previous participant?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	This was my first class	26.57%	72
2	I have participated previously	73.43%	199
	Total	100%	271

Q3 - How satisfied were you with your instructor?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Very unsatisfied	0.66%	1
2	Unsatisfied	0.00%	0
3	Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied	0.00%	0
4	Satisfied	5.96%	9
5	Very satisfied	93.38%	141
	Total	100%	151

Q5 - How long have you been taking the class?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Less than 6 months	7.41%	14
2	6 to 12 months	39.68%	75
3	1 to 1.5 years	26.98%	51
4	1.5 years to 2 years	15.34%	29
5	2 years to 2.5 years	7.41%	14
6	2.5 years to 3 years	3.17%	6
7	More than 3 years	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	189

Senior Fitness Test Results- County Averages

Participant Information

Name: Monroe County StrongWomen 2017

Pre-Date: X Post-Date: X Average # of months between pre & post _____ Average Age: 63.52

Participant Information

	Baseline (Pre-)	%ile	Pre-Test Comments	Most Recent (Post-)	%ile	Post-Test Comments	# Change	% Change
1. Chair Stand Test	15.78	60.86		18.70	77.73		2.92	16.87
2. Arm Curl Test	18.21	65.32		22.41	87.55		4.20	22.24
3. Two-Minute Step Test	97.99	60.54		108.10	73.05		10.11	12.51
4. Chair Sit-and-Reach Test	1.63	51.37		3.02	61.37		1.39	10.00
5. Back Scratch Test	-1.52	45.09		-1.47	50.46		0.05	5.37
6. Eight-Foot Up-and-Go Test	4.83	65.46		4.48	73.13		-0.35	7.66
7. Balance Standing Stork	43.06			63.48			20.42	

Below Average
Normal Range
Above Average

183 people completed testing in Monroe County. The data on this sheet displays the comparison for overall averages of pre-test to overall averages of post-test. If participants were enrolled in more than one session we used their very first pre-test and their very last post-test for comparison.

Q34 - How did you hear about the class? (Select all that apply)

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Newspaper	20.45%	18
2	Radio	0.00%	0
3	Online- Website	1.14%	1
4	Online- Social Media (Facebook)	5.68%	5
5	Friend	50.00%	44
6	Co-worker	7.95%	7
7	Doctor	0.00%	0
8	Presentation	7.95%	7
9	Church Bulletin	0.00%	0
10	Other	6.82%	6
	Total	100%	88

Q6 - What prompted you to enroll in the class? (Select all that apply)

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Exercise	40.95%	206
2	Friends/Socializing	11.73%	59
3	Health Issues	12.52%	63
4	Wouldn't do it on my own	19.28%	97
5	Curiosity	0.99%	5
6	Heard good things about the class	12.13%	61
7	Other	2.39%	12
	Total	100%	503

Other

need physical rehab
Did classes in AZ & wanted to continue
Need to build strength as husband needs more of my help.
Age
to feel better and help my balance
Previous good results
needed to get stronger
needed rehab
improve bone density
Wanted to start lifting weights.
Have been going 5 days a week to CURVES since 2000, but it closed.

Q7 - When you think about what prompted you to enroll in the class, do you feel you have improved in that area?

#	Answer	%	Count
9	Definitely not	0.00%	0
10	Probably not	0.43%	1
11	Unsure	1.70%	4
12	Probably yes	21.70%	51
13	Definitely yes	76.17%	179
	Total	100%	235

Q13 - Please give an overall rating of the StrongWomen program (1 being the worst, 10 being the best)

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Rate program	4.50	10.00	9.05	1.16	1.34	259

Q9 - Since participating in the program, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

#	Question	Strongly disagree		Somewhat disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Somewhat agree		Strongly agree		Total
4	My health is better	0.38%	1	0.77%	2	12.31%	32	45.00%	117	41.54%	108	260
9	I have become more active	0.77%	2	0.38%	1	15.33%	40	37.16%	97	46.36%	121	261
5	I feel physically stronger	1.15%	3	0.38%	1	5.36%	14	33.72%	88	59.39%	155	261
10	I have more energy	0.39%	1	0.77%	2	17.37%	45	35.52%	92	45.95%	119	259
11	I sleep better	1.16%	3	1.16%	3	33.20%	86	38.61%	100	25.87%	67	259
12	My joints any less painful	1.15%	3	3.08%	8	32.69%	85	35.00%	91	28.08%	73	260
14	My balance has improved	0.77%	2	1.15%	3	14.62%	38	40.77%	106	42.69%	111	260

Q10 - Since starting the program, have you had the opportunity to have any chronic disease screenings done such as cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose levels, or bone density to assess your health risk?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	45.03%	86
2	No	54.97%	105
	Total	100%	191

Q11 - Which screenings did you have done? (Select all that apply)

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Cholesterol	24.38%	49
2	Blood Pressure	31.34%	63
3	Glucose Levels	26.37%	53
4	Bone Density	14.43%	29
5	Other	3.48%	7
	Total	100%	201

Q12 - Did the report(s) show any improvement?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	63.24%	43
2	No	8.82%	6
4	Other	27.94%	19
	Total	100%	68

Q14 - What was the best aspect of your entire experience with the program?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Socializing/Meeting new friends	2.32%	6
2	Exercising/Building strength and flexibility	68.73%	178
3	Being motivated to exercise	12.74%	33
8	Improving overall health	6.95%	18
4	Reducing medication(s)	0.00%	0
5	Being in a relaxed/fun atmosphere	2.32%	6
6	Feeling better and losing weight	2.32%	6
7	Improving balance	4.63%	12
	Total	100%	259

Q15 - Are there any aspects of this program you would like to see changed?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	24.11%	61
2	No	75.89%	192
	Total	100%	253

Q16 - What aspect(s) of the program would you like to see changed? (Select all that apply)

#	Answer	%	Count
2	Different exercises/routine	60.87%	42
3	Different locations	1.45%	1
4	Different times	8.70%	6
5	Other	28.99%	20
	Total	100%	69

Q18 - Are you going to re-enroll in the program?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	94.94%	225
2	No	5.06%	12
	Total	100%	237

Q19 - If you are not planning on re-enrolling, why not? (Select all that apply)

#	Answer	%	Count
1	My schedule is too busy	14.29%	2
2	Days/times it is offered are not convenient for me	7.14%	1
5	Location is not convenient for me	0.00%	0
6	I plan to continue exercising on my own	14.29%	2
3	I did not get out of the class what I wanted	7.14%	1
4	Other	57.14%	8
	Total	100%	14

Other

Surgery and unable to participate at this time

Joined a gym and these exercises are included in membership

May re-enroll in Fall.

Jut was not my thing.

I had to cancel my commitment in mid-term as I had an allergy cough and sold my home so I have not been keeping a regular schedule. Sad to say it was the first time that I had not finished the program. Hopefully I will continue with exercise at my new residence that is in Dane County.

Summer is a very busy time and I get enough exercise. May enroll in the fall/winter class.

Q35 - Do you have any other comments about the StrongBodies/StrongWomen Program?

Do you have any other comments about the StrongBodies/StrongWomen Program?

exercise with others makes one more committed to exercise!

Thank you for opening it to men.

I'd like this program to continue in cashton

Need to publicize more to increase involvement

love the class!

I think this program is fun to do and doesn't make my muscles ache to the point I do not want to exercise any more. Best exercise program I have been associated with.

use happier, talking attitude during class. Makes it easier and faster to do.

I am 79 years old and this class gave me real lift and made me feel young and energized.

I quite like the way the course is set up. The exercises are varied and doing them in sets of 10 and then going to another type helps with my fatigue and doesn't allow me to get bored. The time goes so fast because I'm thinking about doing things correctly.

I'm so glad this is available locally

I am just very happy I found this program my body has been through a lot this last year and I had not very good range of motion and it has improved tremendously thank you

I really enjoyed the classes. It did help with my balance somewhat and I do feel better because of the class. Thanks

don't like that the class has a 2 week break. maybe one week but two weeks is too long for a rest from the program. I feel that I lost what I gained

I am very happy that I joined and plan to continue with the next class the best I can around a busy summer schedule.

Excellent class

Thank you!

A much needed program for the Tomah area

I would like to try a morning session in Cashton. However, I realize that Josh is not available as an instructor until 5:30 pm. I am not sure I want to drive 15 miles to Sparta twice a week for the morning classes that are offered.

Great class, glad it is available

I truly enjoy the class

I love the program. Wish it were 5pm instead of 5:30

I'm looking forward to the next session.

I think it is very good because everyone can work hard at their own level.

Great program!

Well done. Glad I took the class. Hope to continue the increased exercise.

I hope it continues. I think it is such a good exercise program for older women. Really helps with strength, balance and coordination. Felt so much better after each class.

More variation with the exercises. Also posture during exercise needs to be emphasized.

Could the program incorporate some cardio exercises? Plus would be nice to offer different exercises / so it wouldn't be the same each day.

A great program for our community.

Overall, an excellent experience. Thank you!

Great program, so glad this available

Thanks for providing this!! :)

Maybe describe what the course is about more.

I feel the class is excellent for individuals who have balance and strength issues. I'm not there yet and do plenty of my own activity. I will incorporate the weight exercises to maintain my strength.

Really liked the program. I feel there are many women who would benefit from the program, we need to spread the word. My session had a strong decline in attendance, I'm not sure why, but maybe find a way to keep them coming for the entire session?

Joshua L. Goede

Space Camp Counselors
The slate of counselors have been selected. The Agent, state staff, and Barron County Educator met Jan. 4 to start planning the counselor training phone conferences and weekend in April. The Agent will accompany the state delegation to Huntsville, AL on April 26-30.

Clover College Change
2018 Clover College will be at Justin Trails on January 27. The event will start at 12:30pm and run to 3:30 pm. The Jr. Leaders are creating solid lessons. So far they have a dog safety lesson, pinecone bird feeder, and Snap Circuits demonstration. This is an opportunity for Jr. Leaders to create an educational program for the young members. They are also planning their lock-in to follow Clover College

Monroe County Safe Community Coalition
The Agent is working on the Agents 4 Change schedules for Cashton and Brookwood. The Agent will be training high school age youth at teachers for curriculum in tobacco and alcohol.

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
A new 4-H Club in Warrens is in the planning stages. There will be two open gyms at the Warrens Elementary one in Jan and one in Feb to recruit members. The club will start in Feb.

Valle Ville
Three families are leaving the Valle Ville Club to start the new Warrens club so there will be repair work to be done in Valle Ville but the leader is optimistic and looking at ways to help 4-H translate into the Hispanic culture. This is really exciting as we look to grow Monroe County 4-H.

Fort McCoy
The Agent had an in depth meeting at Ft. McCoy on Jan 3. Topics were ways to help Ft. youth to identify as 4-Hers. Ft. would like to bring a structure of community service to the Teen level group. The Agent will present a six week program to 3-5th grade. The agent will attend a few meetings of the 4-H club on base. The agent will present how Ft. McCoy can fit into the larger county program specifically camp and the county fair. The summer program will look at ways to tie into Upham Woods

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, Jan. 11 He will use the popular roller coaster lesson.

Continuing Programs

- **Jr. Leaders**
  - 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 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

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 December 12, 2017 to January 5, 2018

The annual Crop Management/ Agronomy Update for agronomy professionals was held on January 5th in Sparta. There were 25 participants at the workshop. Topics included Corn research and management update, soybean research and management update, and weed management from the new UW Extension Weed Scientist.

The Ag Agent worked with a farmer to design cattle handling facilities in an existing retired dairy barn.

The Ag Agent put together a webpage for the Monroe County Invasive Species Workgroup, of which the Ag Agent is a contributing member along with Land Conservation, USDA-NRCS, and DNR. The website features links in information on managing invasive species and meeting and workshop minutes and agendas.

The Ag Agent attended a southwestern WI Ag Agent in-service training where discussion was about materials to help farmers manage through the continued sour farm economy.

The Ag Agent coordinated a fertilizer price survey that will be used to assist farmers with making decisions for the 2018 growing season.

Planning and scheduling workshops and educational events has been a larger part of efforts over the past month. The Ag Agent will conduct 4 private pesticide applicator educational and testing sessions held in Monroe County in January and February, the Ag Agent will also conduct two for La Crosse County farmers to help out during the vacancy. This is the first year in the new cycle and there is a large number of farmers who need to get their license renewed this year.

The Ag Agent finished up project summaries to be shared with cooperators and completed annual reporting requirements, reviews and end of year paperwork over the past few weeks.

Upcoming Events- more to be added as they get finalized
Jan 5 Agronomy Update
Jan 9-11 Crop Management Conference
Jan 23- PAT- St. Joseph Ridge
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
Jan 30 PAT- Tomah
Feb 2 Soil Conservation & Management workshop
Feb 6 PAT Sparta
Feb 7 PAT Mindoro
Feb 9-10 Wisconsin Cattlemen's Winter Conference
Feb 15 Winter Crops Update
Feb 20 PAT Tomah
Feb 21 PAT Sparta
Feb 24 Annual Hops Growers Conference
Feb 26- Mar 1 Cattle Feeders Workshops

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