



Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee

Regular Monthly Meeting – June 10th, 2020

Monroe County - Board Assembly Room –Sparta, WI

Committee Members present: N. VanWychen, D. Pierce, R. Lueth, R. Sherwood, J. Schmitz and K. Raymer (FSA Rep.).

Not Present:

Also Present: B. Micheel (LC), A. Young (DekeSlayton), J. Roll (History), C. Saxe (UW-EXT), B Halfman (UW-EXT), J. Goede (4H), A. Anderson (Health Educator), V. Kast (UW-EXT), T. Osterberg (Co Administrator), A. Lockington (Co Administrative) and C. Ziegler (Forestry & Parks).

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

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

Public Comment Period: None

Approve Minutes from the May 14th NR & Extension Meeting: The committee reviewed the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by R. Lueth, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: (Report Attached)

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto:

1. **Review May Report:** J. Roll reviewed report. (Report Attached)
2. **Review May Expenditures:** J. Roll reported nothing needed further explanation.

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept May Report and Expenditures, second by R. Lueth. Motion carried 6-0-0

County Farm Education Funds: None

Extension Office Business:

1. **Review May Expenditures:**
2. **4H & Youth Development Report:** (Report Attached)
3. **Agriculture Report:** (Report Attached)
4. **Health & Well-Being/FoodWise Report:** (Report Attached)
5. **Approval of County Purchase Cards for Educator and Administrative Assistant.**

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept County Purchase Cards, second by R. Lueth. Motion carried 5-0-1

6. **AED Update:** Reviewed WEXA Dues

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept May Report and Expenditures, second by R. Lueth. Motion carried 6-0-0.

NRCS Report: (Report Attached)

Fort McCoy Update: (Report Attached)

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Review May Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed monthly expenditures.
 - **CCTF Grant – Budget Adjustment – Review/Approve:**

Motion made by R. Sherwood to accept CCTF Budget Adjustment second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 6-0-0.

- **CCTF Line Item Transfer – Review/Approve:**

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept CCTF Line Item Transfer, second by R. Luethe. Motion carried 6-0-0.

- **Fishing Easements – Review/Approve:**

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept Fishing Easements, second by J. Schmitz. Motion carried 6-0-0.

2. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel reviewed report. (Report Attached)
3. **Soil & Water Conservationist Report:** (Report Attached)
4. **Land Use Planner Report:** (Report Attached)

DNR Forestry Reports:

1. **Warden:** None
2. **Forestry:** (Report Attached)
3. **Managed Forest Law Program:** None

Forestry & Parks:

1. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler reported that the 2021 timber sale recon has begun. Sold 5 timber sales last meeting. All the contacts went out, they are signed and back. Chad has been spraying garlic mustard at McMullen and Ski Hill property. Also been spraying spotted knapweed, honeysuckle and buckthorn in the town of New Lyme. DNR has also been spraying for buckthorn in New Lyme. Also finished a couple gate installations. Verso paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids has shut down, this will most likely have a huge impact on the local pulp prices. Camping started on May 15th at McMullen Park, the privies were opened last week, the shower building is closed. Beaches can potentially be open. Safety Audit on June 18th out at McMullen Park. Last year around this time of year we were at \$53,000 in park revenue and this year \$25,000 in revenue, down \$28,000 from 2019. Chad thinks the park will still be able to break even. Snowmobile funding: Chad has been approving the maintenance entries in the SNARS for 2019-20 and will be applying for supplemental maintenance. (Report Attached)
2. **Review Forestry & Parks May Expenditures:** Reviewed monthly expenditures.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held, Wednesday July 8th, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Board Assembly Room in Sparta.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Recorder: Arin Gowan



DEKE SLAYTON MEMORIAL SPACE & BICYCLE MUSEUM MAY REPORT

1. Junior Space Camp will be canceled this year
2. Working on refiguring and super cleaning bike display
3. Pig roast is canceled this year
4. Deke Slayton Space Camp will be canceled this year

Deke Slayton Museum

200 W Main St Sparta, WI 54656 • 608-269-0033 • alysa.young@dekeslaytonmuseum.org •
www.dekeslaytonmuseum.org • www.facebook.com/Deke-Slayton-Memorial-Space-Bike-Museum



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

LHR Director / County Historian's Report, May 2020

Submitted by Jarrod Roll

Highlighted Projects and Activities by Jarrod Roll, Hannah Scholze, and Volunteers

- Emailed multiple updates to volunteers with information about what staff has been working on and the status of the Museum Building being closed
- Fulfilled customer orders for research materials and photographs both via computer and through the mail
- Created third and final Civil War educational video by researching the topic of Civil War equipment and camp life; collected images and video footage to use in the video; wrote script; shot and edited footage; promoted video by sending link to teachers
- Met with two flooring companies about replacing Breakroom flooring; visited both showrooms to choose flooring; began planning how to move the furniture out of the Breakroom to allow for flooring install and painting
- Gave the Research Library an update: removed hanging pictures from the walls and found a new storage location for them; moved and deep cleaned furniture, painted walls, deep cleaned floors and blinds, replaced furniture
- Created to-do list of delayed maintenance projects with Fred Oostdik including: scraping, replacing rotted wood, reglazing, caulking and repainting the side windows, fan light, and wood surrounding the door; repainting front door, front and back; restoring the front entry lights (stripping paint and polishing metal); repainting the Museum sign post and metal railings; installing new museum signs featuring the logos of both museums; repairing the dripping gutters; scraping, reglazing, caulking and repainting the back door
- Consulted with other libraries and museums about reopening plans; began drafting reopening plan for MCLHR
- Applied for CARES Grant through the Wisconsin Humanities Council
- Paid bills through the MUNIS system

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Extension

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Agriculture Extension Agent: Bill Halfman

Agriculture Program Highlights May 14, 2020 through June 2, 2020

All face to face workshops and one on one visits continue to be suspended. The Ag Agent continues responding to people via phone calls, e-mails and press releases to help address various needs.

Common questions that have been addressed over the past two weeks are: farm land rental rates, hay prices, calculate fertilizer rates based on soil tests, farm field limestone requirements, vegetable garden questions, lawn questions, and native prairie restoration, tomato plant management, hay land rental rates and standing hay prices, woody brush identification and control, rhubarb management, fruit tree management, ornamental tree problems, insect identification, custom farmer machinery operation rates, and private pesticide applicator certification questions.

The Ag Agent participated in an interview with Wisconsin Public Radio to provide accurate factual information regarding impacts of the pandemic to farmers in the region.

The Ag Agent has been working with other agents to develop fact sheets for direct marketing meat, and news releases on pricing standing hay, field crop weed management, and safety when handling chemicals, fertilizing pastures, and hay storage fact sheets and decision tools, and a hay pricing decision tool. In addition, the Ag Agent has been part of a group developing tools to assist farmers calculate their feed inventories for the COVID CFAP program through USDA- FSA.

The corn nitrogen plot and the hops nitrogen plot have been sampled and early treatments applied.

At this time we are in “wait and see” status for scheduling field days and workshops including tractor safety.



Joshua L. Goede

County Safe Community Coalition.

Coming Back Online

Wisconsin 4-H and Positive Youth Development are working to release a phased in plan to bring 4-H back to being able to meet.

- June will be virtual and no contact program and opportunities.
- July will hopefully usher in limited groups of 10 or less with careful planning and permission from the AED.
- Mid to late July as we learn about hosting events of 10 or less there can be more.
- Mid to late August we can look at hosting 50 or less participants again with careful planning
 - There will be no overnight or travel until September at the earliest.

We will probably be in a smaller capacity for a while after this plan as well.

Area 13 Photo Expo

ON May 14th we held a very successful digital Photo Expo. We had a certified photo judge look at all the photos and talk with the 40+ youth on the ZOOM about the positive qualities of the photos and areas where improvement could be made.

Camps/Adventure Days

We are pivoting our overnight adventure camp into two Adventure Days. Day One will focus on canoeing the Kickapoo. We will then have activities and educational presentations at Wildcat Mountain State Park. The 2nd day will be biking on the Sparta-Elroy Trail. We will go from Norwalk to Wilton. The activities will be in the Wilton Community Park.

Shooting Sports

With the new plan for 4-H this summer it would be fall before we can consider our powder sports.

Agents 4 Change w/ Monroe County Safe Community Coalition

The Agent is exploring a method to hold a training in late summer for high school youth to become versed in community change and AODA Education. The training would be provided through the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America and funded through Monroe

Dairy Windows

We have worked on rules to allow the traditional June Dairy Windows in community businesses set up by 4-H clubs. We are ensuring a no contact method of planning and assembling.

STEAM @ The Library Project

This project is being adapted digitally and moving to summer programming in conjunction with the libraries. The Cashton Librarian has been helping to see what this could look like. This will be Sierra's first project

Senior Recognition

Our Seniors will not have a normal graduation so we are working on recognizing them

Summer Assistant

Sierra Hanley is returning as the Summer Assistant. She will be working on several new upcoming plans for this unconventional summer. She will have a report for you next month.

Advanced Space Academy

The Agent is moving ahead cautiously with plans for the January 2021 Advanced Space Academy. Registration opened to the whole state on June 1.

Ideas Being Built

In this new way of doing things there are several Ideas that The Agent and Summer Assistant will be developing further. We are looking at

- weekly content 4-H meetings covering an array of topics
- STEM Times is a mail program where members will receive program materials and instructions
- Area 13 is looking to put a Camp in a Box Program together.
- Looking into new community service project with Jr. Leaders
- Small Group day camps for later in the summer.

April Anderson

Monroe County Nutrition Coalition

Our May meeting was cancelled.

Monroe County Mental Health Coalition

The May meeting was held virtually. We learned about the Viterbo Voice (Vital Opioid/Substance Abuse Instruction through Community-Based Experiential Learning) Grant. Through this grant we plan to have a community conversation before the end of August. We are also planning to participate in the Center for Suicide Awareness-Walk Across Wisconsin, which is an annual event.

HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living)

Monroe County employees were invited to participate in the Summer STEPS challenge, a free virtual team walking challenge, from June 1st through August 31st. Forty-eight employees registered for this challenge! Participants chose one of four possible destinations: Milwaukee Brewers Stadium, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Yellowstone National Park, or Disney World. Prizes will be awarded to the teams that make it to their destination first. I created Google forms for registration and to collect demographic as well as a flyer to help promote the program. Finally, I submitted a sponsorship request to Kwik Trip to cover the prizes for this program.

FoodWise

My program planning workbook was approved by the state program manager. I have been attending classroom management zooms during which I have learned strategies for scheduling lessons with teachers as well as ways to plan effective nutrition lessons. I also continue to work through the online course "FoodWise: Healthy Choices, Healthy Lives".

StrongBodies

StrongBodies virtual classes continue to take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. I have received emails from participants sharing their appreciation of these classes.

Onboarding

Recently I learned about "Developing Your Road Map- Plan of Work". I learned about the components that make up the plan of work which include situation statements, target audience, goals/outcomes, actions, and evaluation. I have been working on my Plan of Work and will be sharing it with my program manager soon.

Health Matters Newspaper Column

In the middle of May I submitted an article on brain health, which included key risk factors for cognitive decline such as obesity, diabetes, smoking, and a sedentary lifestyle. The article also addressed ways to promote brain health such as quality sleep, a healthy diet, exercise, and challenging oneself intellectually. Most recently I submitted an article on cutting food waste and maintaining food safety. Statistics surrounding food waste are shared as well as strategies to ensure food safety.

HCE (Home and Community Education)

HCE leadership decided not to send out a May newsletter.

Professional Development

- ACES (Adverse Child Experiences) webinars
- Cultural Approaches to Aging zoom
- Brain Health webinars
- Feeding for Healthy Eating training

COMING SOON

- June 1st – Summer STEPS Challenge begins
- June 1st -4th – American Society for Nutrition Live Online 2020 conference
- June 3rd & June 17th – GO NAPSACC training
- June 18th – Mental Health Coalition meeting



U.S. ARMY FORT McCOY

June Report

- The Army is taking precautionary measures to protect the health of the force and maintain operational readiness. We will continue to evaluate current day-to-day operations to ensure the safety of all of our Soldiers, family members, retirees and civilian personnel.
- Fort McCoy leadership prioritizes the health and safety of our Soldiers, civilians and family members, as well as those who train and visit here.
- At this time, training on Fort McCoy has been impacted. The Army has implemented guidance that delayed, adjusted or canceled some training this spring and summer. Additionally, the busy moving season has been impacted. What hasn't been impacted is Fort McCoy's commitment to the American people in its ability to support the nation's warfighters in maintaining readiness; its ability to support the military community, including family members, retirees and its workforce; and its dedication as good stewards of the environment.
- We encourage all personnel to follow the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. On Fort McCoy, that includes not visiting if you are ill, calling ahead for an appointment -- many offices are not accepting walk-ins -- bringing a face mask, washing hands frequently, and practicing safe social distancing.

Tonya Townsell
Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer
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Visit Fort McCoy: home.army.mil/mccoy
www.facebook.com/FtMcCoy
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June 10, 2020 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel - County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Farmland Preservation Program (FLP) – The new signup bonus (\$2,000) being offered to farmers who sign-up for the FLP program in the two Monroe County AEA's is working. This is a state DATCP trial to stimulate participation in the FLP program. (Handout) 10 applications have been submitted to DATCP for developing agreements with more on the way. Applied for another \$40,000 in 2021 for continuing the signup bonus.
- Climate Change Task Force – Participated in the state's CCTF virtual meeting on May 21st. Presented on Monroe County Climate Change impacts (flooding) and CCTF objectives. The state CCTF deadline for recommendations to the Governor has been extended until October 31st. June 4th the Monroe County CCTF held its first meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic. Fishers and Farmers grant will provide some funding for weather monitoring equipment while demonstrating stream restoration BMP's in the Little La Crosse Watershed. Seeking donations (handout) for the Kickapoo and Little La Crosse Watersheds to implement goal number one.
- NRCS Stream Restoration Standards Team – Revising the 4 practice standards that are involved in stream restoration work. Monthly meetings held through teleconferencing utilizing Microsoft teams.
- Coon Creek Watershed – A private engineering firm has been selected and in the process of being contracted with NRCS. They will be providing the watershed study for the Coon Creek with anticipated outcomes in 18-24 months. The Monroe County Corporation Council is drafting the framework for the creation of a Joint Powers Board for the watershed, which encompasses the counties of La Crosse, Monroe & Vernon. A joint decision making process for the watershed is necessary as we move forward with the PL566 dams.
- MCISWG – Promoting cost share to address invasive species mgt. on private property. The LCD provides annually \$1,800 for cost sharing at \$600 cap per landowner. All field days planned in 2020 have been canceled except the fall event in Jefferson Township.
- CWD Task Force – Working with the state to increase payment per deer for vendors who butcher venison for food pantries. Our research shows \$100/deer is needed to increase participating vendors.

Meeting Schedule:

- June 10th – County Board Rules Meeting
- June 11th – MCISWG
- June 18th – Land Stewardship Awards Committee
- June 24th – 580 Standards Team Meeting
- June 25th – Dept. Head Meeting
- July 2nd – Monroe County Climate Change Task Force
- July 8th - Natural Resource & Extension Committee meeting

June 2020 - Land Use Planner's Report

Roxie Anderson

Activities:

- Isolation Facility Project – Work with Sherriff's Department, Public Health Department, and Emergency Management Coordinator to manage project to establish isolation / quarantine facility for Monroe County. I started working on project in early April and continued to work on the project part-time from April 20 through May 15.
- Comprehensive Plans – Meetings with Town Boards have been put on hold during the Safer at Home order. I plan on scheduling meetings in June to re-start and continue Comprehensive Plan Updates. Timeline to adopt plans will need to be re-evaluated.
- Grant Funding Opportunities – Update on following grant applications:
 - WI DNR Municipal Flood Control Grant – Grant applications for the Towns of Sparta, Leon, and Portland were submitted on March 15. Five properties directly within floodways (Zone A) have been prioritized and confirmed to move forward in application approval process.
 - 21284 St Hwy 27 (Leon)
 - 21308 St Hwy 27 (Leon)
 - 21310 St Hwy 27 (Leon)
 - 26880 St Hwy 27 (Portland)
 - 17476 Icarus Rd (Sparta)
 - Fishers and Farmers Partnership Grant – The grant application titled “Establish Real-Time Weather Monitoring Stations to Improve Success of Conservation Practices in Flood-Prone Areas” has been awarded \$36,086 in funding. Bob and I are working with the grant program manager, Heidi Kueler, to complete requirements to set up our project for grant administration. Part of the funding for this project proposal will go toward establishment of real-time precipitation and stream level monitoring stations, which will also fulfill one of the goals of the Climate Change Task Force.
 - FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant – We have been notified that the grant application titled “Integrating Hazard Mitigation Planning into Monroe County Planning Effort” has been selected for further review and funding. The funding request is \$63,768.75 with a \$21,256.25 match over a 20-month period. We will receive a request for information to complete and will await final approval.
 - NRCS Cooperative Agreement Grant Opportunity – I will be revising and updating the grant application we submitted in 2019 for this grant program. We initially requested \$456,680 with a \$256,680 match over a 5-year period to fully fund a summer internship program and partial funding for comprehensive planning and farmland preservation planning efforts. The grant application is due June 15.
- Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) – I have been researching weather/stream monitoring stations and sensors and will present results at CCTF meeting on June 4th. I have been gathering information from various resources such as Iowa Flood Center, Pine Island Emergency Management, National Weather Service and USGS to help make determinations.

June 10th, 2020-- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**

- Constructed 1900 lin ft of Grassed Waterways
- Continuing construction on a waste storage abandonment
- Site visits to look at flood damage.
- Assisting NRCS with Grade Stab and Streambank project construction.
- Completing last 2 streambank designs.
- Applied for 5 DNR permits for streambank projects.

Nick Smetana

- **Activities**

- Completed construction surveys and designs (4 streambanks, 1 dam)
- Construction planning, O & M with landowners for streambank restorations

CREP

- Staked 1 CREP Project
- CREP Seeding & Cost-Share Guidance
- CREP field shapes and cost estimators



DNR Forestry

May Report

Megan Mickelson / Clint Gilman

As far as my report goes (fire and forestry) I've been getting a lot of questions as to when the "Burn Ban" will be lifted. Cooking and warming fires are still legal, as they've been, however any other type of burning that is NOT for the purpose of cooking or warming continues to be suspended (as of today, May 20th as I write this). My best GUESS, and it is only a guess, is that the permit suspension in DNR Protected Areas will lift only when the entire state is deemed to be 'out of fire season.' Right now, we're still seeing active fire behavior in the north, and to keep things efficient and easy to understand for Wisconsinites, the suspension continues. Like I said, that's my best guess, but the State could decide to continue the ban indefinitely. Thanks to everyone for the compliance with the permit suspension! For the dry and warm weather we had this spring, human-caused fires were down- excellent news!!

DNR Forestry
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Forestry & Parks Report (June) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- 2021 timber sale recon
- Invasive spraying –
 - Garlic Mustard – McMullen park and Ski hill
 - Spotted knapweed, buckthorn, honeysuckle – New Lyme
- Timber sale contract preparation
- Finished 2 Gate installations (New Lyme and Lincoln)

Parks:

- Camping began May 15th
- 15 new fire rings

Snowmobile:

- Approving SNARS entries

Other:

- WCFA Quarterly Conference Call
- Karner Blue HCP meeting