

**Agriculture & Extension Committee Meeting
September 8, 2008
Minutes**

Committee members present: Chairman Paul Dean, Tom Rudolph, Wilbur Petroskey, Denny Thompson. Absent: Romelle Vandervest, excused.

Others present: Dan Kuzlik, Charles Wickman, Jim Winkler, Patricia McGee, Nancy Livingston, and Kerri Ison.

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Paul Dean.

Approval of agenda: Motion by Rudolph/Petroskey to approve the agenda as mailed. All ayes; motion carried.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Petroskey/Rudolph to approve the minutes of August 7, 2008 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Dates of future meetings:

10/6/08	9 a.m.	Extension meeting room
11/13/08	9 a.m.	Extension meeting room

Monthly budget report: Motion by Petroskey/Rudolph to approve the monthly budget report as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Monthly invoices: Motion by Thompson/Petroskey to approve the invoices for the department and the Oneida County Fair as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Motion by Petroskey/Thompson to address item 13 Teen Court.

Teen Court: Winkler introduced Charles Wickman (Oneida County Board Supervisor) and Nancy Livingston (Vilas County Teen Court), both in attendance for the Teen Court discussion.

Charles Wickman circulated a handout about Teen Court. He feels that many County Board members did not understand the Teen Court program, even after Winkler's presentation. There are many teen courts in jurisdictions all around us and the program is cost effective. Wickman spoke with Bob Brusco and the County Board Room could be used to hold court. He believes if smaller incidences are addressed to make youth "pay attention" it can have a positive effect on the youth and is a small cost compared to other programs. Petroskey and Rudolph agree with Wickman and feel the handout should be shared with other County Board members. Rudolph feels the potential cost seems to be a major issue and believes it should be thought of as an investment with long-term returns, with actual costs being minimal.

Wickman spoke with a public defender and an attorney who both believe the cost of one trial (court and public defender) would be more than what it would likely cost to run a Teen Court program for one year. This is actual court cost, but the social cost is much more than that. Wickman reiterated there are 41 counties statewide that host this program and wondered if it would help to bring people up from neighboring areas to share. Lengthy discussion followed.

Thompson voiced his concern about duplicative effort if school districts and the City become involved. Feedback from some constituents he represents hasn't been very positive but they would be in favor of Teen Court if something else could be cut to make room for it. He believes the program would provide a service but would like to see some other form of funding.

Nancy Livingston noted Teen Court isn't an answer for all but is an answer for many. It is a positive experience for respondents and those who serve on Teen Court. There is always a percentage of recidivism. The thoughts and roadblocks in the way are not new to any program that has been started in this state or nation. Teen Court is not a county government program and is run on "soft" dollars.

Livingston noted LUHS is supportive of the program and their students want the Teen Court option for all students, not just Vilas County youth. Vilas County Teen Court has been in place for nine years with its first case being heard in June 1999. At that time, Oneida County judges were not in favor but they have seen the positive effect since then and are now in favor of the program. She has talked with a person who is willing to help find in-kind for the program and if she can come through, Oneida Teen Court will happen. Livingston is always available to answer questions and can be reached at the Vilas County UW-Extension office.

Winkler noted he spoke with several people who are upset that this type of program is not available here and that going to court is not a good learning experience for children or parents. Youth need to be more accountable for their actions. A local small business manager indicated some young shoplifters never see the judge--parents pay the fine and the youth re-offend. Petroskey believes the folks that feel this way should be encouraged to contact their County Board supervisor to convey their wishes.

McGee offered publications put out by the Office of Justice focusing on cost-effective intervention programs that work. See her for copies.

Dean doesn't believe county supervisors will support the program and is doubtful they can be swayed. Local law enforcement is not currently supportive, except for the Rhinelander Police Department and City Administrator but they haven't received approval for it at this time. If the program is approved it will only be available to Rhinelander city youth.

Thompson believes Social Services doesn't support the program and feels that if it is a collaborative effort with other entities it may be approved. Rudolph feels Social Services does not oppose it, however their workload is such that they do not want to spearhead it. He also believes that law enforcement is not opposed to it, but is unaware what their role would be. He believes we should proceed with a study committee, if there is no cost involved, to gather more information and bring it to County Board in a form that will sell itself.

Winkler noted he has support from all school districts and have game players ready to become involved. The City is ready to partner with us on the program once they receive approval. Winkler circulated and reviewed a proposal based on 50 students per year, hiring a coordinator on contractual salary. He reported that Laura Mays noted that FACT has given the general fund over \$5,000 thus far which is undesignated at this time.

Motion by Rudolph/Petroskey authorizing Jim Winkler to go forward with a study group to gather information on Teen Court and report back to this Committee. Discussion followed. All ayes; motion carried.

2009 department budget: Kuzlik presented the 2009 budget which has a 0% increase except for salaries. He also noted staff is struggling with travel costs and have had to decrease other line items to adjust for mileage costs. Motion by Petroskey/Thompson to approve the 2009 departmental budget as presented. All ayes; motion carried. Petroskey suggested making notes of what adjustments have been made to help cover mileage expenses to share with the Finance Committee.

Amendment to Agents 133 contract: Kuzlik reviewed the Amendment to the Agents 133 contract with the Committee indicating there is a projected 3% increase as directed by state. Discussion followed. Motion by Rudolph/Thompson to approve the Amendment to the 133 Contract as presented and forward to the LRES Committee for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

2008 Fair recap: Kuzlik felt the fair was successful and reported a conservative attendance estimate of 4,000 for the two days. The Fair also came in under budget. Kuzlik is presenting this information at the September County Board meeting.

McGee compiled the data from surveys completed by fairgoers and noted there was a real outcry from people ages 12-24 that said there wasn't anything for them in the evening. However, if that age group had children, they thought it was great. Most of the feedback was positive and the negative feedback concerned the lack of a traditional carnival. Positive feedback was also given by the civic clubs who had food booths. Discussion followed.

Kuzlik noted it was learning experience and some changes will be made for next year. We were definitely understaffed for volunteers and the entire office staff virtually focused on the fair for a month or more. Planning will be able to start earlier for 2009. Petroskey knows of two people who want to serve on the planning team for next year and has given Winkler the names. Discussion followed.

Petroskey shared an article from the Antigo Paper about the 1933 fair and how there wasn't a carnival -- we aren't the only one who didn't have a carnival.

Ison spoke with the Forest County Fair manager who indicated their carnival also dictates food vendors and dates. Rudolph noted he would like to see local organizations providing the food booths as it is quality food and the funds stay in the community.

A Fair Planning Team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 5 p.m. at the UW-Extension office.

2009 Fair budget: The 2009 budget request is for \$15,000 in county funds for 2009—the same as 2008. Kuzlik will request that remaining 2008 funds be carried over to 2009. Motion by Petroskey/Rudolph to approve the 2009 Oneida County Fair budget in the amount of \$15,000. All ayes; motion carried.

Community use of Fair trolleys: Kuzlik noted the County owns a lot of resources for the "Fair" i.e. bleachers and trolleys which are only used the week of the fair. Kuzlik requested permission to approach the County regarding lending/renting out this type of equipment to other community organizations for special events. Committee members felt this is an excellent idea and authorized staff to contact Corporation Counsel regarding the issue.

Monthly agent reports: Discussion held regarding agent reports. Kuzlik and McGee put together an innovation grant to offer four-year college courses at RHS and have been meeting with RSD staff. Motion by Rudolph/Thompson to approve the monthly agent reports as presented.

Out-of-county travel requests:

Kuzlik:

9/10/08	Grow North	Antigo*
9/24-26/08	Leadership Academy	Barron **
10/1-2/08	Ideas to Profits workshop	Appleton***

McGee:

8/13/08	Lakeland Food Pantry	Minocqua*
8/26/08	Promotion & Tenure meeting	Stevens Point*
9/5/08	UW-Superior	Superior*

9/12/08	Goodbye for John Preissing	Spooner*
9/14/08	Leadership Instituted	Lac du Flambeau*
9/18-19/08	Poverty Matters Conference (presenter)	Appleton**

Winkler:

9/16-19/08	WI Rural Leadership Program	Trego**
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*county expense
**district/state expense
***grant/other expense

Motion by Petroskey/Thompson to approve the out-of-county travel requests as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Public comment/communications: Kuzlik provided a handout for the 2009 WACEC State Conference on June 15-16 2009 in LaCrosse.

Items for next agenda: Teen Court, Poverty Matters workshop.

Adjournment: Motion by Rudolph/Thompson to adjourn at 3:10 p.m. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Paul Dean, Chair