Vilas County CPAG began in January of 2005. They had over 20 members in attendance at meetings however after two years a core of 12 members has prevailed. The group participated in a SWOT Analysis (strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of Vilas County) early in their inception and that continues to give them direction for their activities. They wrote issue statements after analyzing the SWOT data and then developed a vision of the impact they could have in Vilas County working specifically with UW Extension. The Extension staff took time to explain how their work relates to the issues identified and how transformational education is their mission. Staff encouraged CPAG’s desire to plan community functions in conjunction with Extension that would address issues identified. Over the past two years they have accomplished the following:

1. Held a Candidate forum at election time when over 20% of County Board was up for election, the event was broadcast by local radio stations.

2. Sponsored a World Café on Higher Education in Vilas County. Chancellor David Wilson and seventy-five community members attended the event. Since then, meetings have been held with Nicolet Area Technical College and University of Wisconsin –Marathon to coordinate efforts for distance learning in higher education at the new Northland Pines High School in Eagle River.

3. When Vilas Counties CRD educator resigned, they went to Extension Committee Board meetings to encourage the committee to show support for refilling the position.

4. Created media coverage for UW Extension activities and continue to promote extension through newspaper articles as well as radio and television coverage of events sponsored in conjunction with UW Extension.

Most recently they have decided to increase the size of their group and continue to support UW Extension. Members attended the WACEC conference and spoke with both Senator Breske and the aide for Representative Dan Meyer.