

Extension Overall Advisory Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

The June 23, 2008 meeting of the East Carroll Parish Extension Overall Advisory Leadership Council started at 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Lake Providence.

The following were present: Staff Members – Parish Chair/Associate County Agent Donna Lee (ANR); Associate Area Agent Glenn Dixon (ANR); Associate Area Extension Agent Carolyn Robinson (FCS); Associate Extension Agent Kris Mayers (4-H); Nutrition Educator 2's Dorris Thompson, Mary Reed, Grace Siggers and Patricia Johnikin (all with EFNEP); Nutrition Educator Sharon Wilder (FFNEWS); and Administrative Coordinators Lori McLain and Sherry Smith; Committee Members – Tabitha Reed, Anita Perry, Mattie Dixon, Doris James, Tommy Morant, On'June Hewitt, Mark Brown, Tracy Reynolds, Veola Haley, Bill McLain and Latayatacha Ross.

Parish Chair Donna Lee opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming. She stated that we want to hear whatever the committee members have to say, whether it be good or bad. Ms. Lee then asked Associate Area Agent Glenn Dixon to return thanks for the food.

After everyone had returned to their seats and were enjoying the food, Ms. Lee gave a brief description of what Extension does and why we were at the meeting. She asked each staff member to stand and introduce themselves and tell what program(s) they work with.

After staff introductions, Ms. Lee informed everyone that they can call our office if they have an issue with any of our programs and speak with the respective agent. She also said that we need input about what we do. If someone sees we need to address a particular issue, please let us know. We are open to criticism as well as compliments. We create public awareness of what we can do for the community.

Ms. Lee told everyone the reason they were chosen to be a part of this committee is because they are leaders in the community. She also told everyone that their responsibility as a council member is to represent their peers; to help us make it known to all parish residents of the services we offer; and that we need them to understand the Cooperative Extension Service.

Mattie Dixon stated that she receives information on home grounds from us, but she doesn't know where to start in respect to planting a rose bush or other flowers, etc.

Extension Overall ALC Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2008
Page 2

Ms. Lee informed that she is conducting a monthly lunch & learn workshop on Home Gardening/Grounds at the library. The workshops will be held the first Friday of each month, with the exception of July's being held on July 11. She told Ms. Dixon this would be a good place for her to start gathering information.

Veola Haley complimented Mr. Dixon for helping her with some lawn problems. She said that Mr. Dixon stopped by her house to look at the problem, told her what to do and then returned some time afterwards to check on the results.

The first issue raised for discussion was beautification. Ms. Lee asked if anyone would be interested in forming a committee for beautification. The response to this was not positive. Ms. Dixon stated she just wanted to know how to make her own yard look nice.

Anita Perry said she would like to see a riding arena built for the parish. She would like to see more youth involved in showing animals and that she would be willing to work on a committee for this issue. Mr. Dixon said this issue would fall under rural development.

Tracy Reynolds mentioned the need for a recycling center. She suggested educating younger children about recycling would produce longer lasting results. She said she would be willing to work on a committee for this issue.

Bill McLain stated that Extension needs to be more visible. We should publicize things in the newspaper more and utilize the local cable channel. We need to better explain who we are and what we offer.

Mr. Dixon reminded everyone that if they are holding a meeting/gathering to invite us to come speak. That's one good way for us to be in the public eye and to let more people know about us.

Ms. Lee informed that we have access to numerous researchers and specialists who can also attend meetings as speakers.

Ms. Lee asked Mark Brown for his opinion on where Ag stands at this point. What educational programs do we need? Mr. Brown said he thinks we are where we need to be. He said that he receives the Horticulture Hints and Living Well newsletters and really enjoys them. He also said that those who don't receive these newsletters are missing out on some really good information. But as far as what is needed in the Ag area, he thinks that everything is good.

Ms. Haley asked if there is a pamphlet that lists what Extension does. If so, we should publish it in the newspaper periodically and leave it in the banks and other businesses.

Ms. Perry asked if Ag utilizes the local chemical companies to inform farmers what we offer.

Extension Overall ALC Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2008

Page 3

Ms. Lee said we do work with the chemical companies. She also informed that we have a parish Web site up and running but it is still under construction. We are aware that everyone does not have Internet access but the library has computers for the public to use. Ms. Lee also stated that we do have a publication that lists what we do that we can leave in businesses.

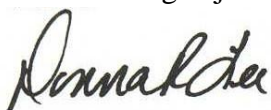
Grace Siggers suggested that we print a money management article in the newspaper.

Carolyn Robinson said that she conducts financial management classes for a selected group at this time but she is considering doing a lunch & learn workshop on financial management. EFNEP takes groups to the grocery stores and educates them on how to shop wisely, how to purchase by price per pound, how to use coupons, etc.

Mr. Dixon asked On'June Hewitt where she, as a young person, goes to get information. Her response was the Internet. Mr. Dixon stated that he downloads podcasts. A podcast is a MP3 file that tells you how to do something. A person can record a task or demonstration and upload it as MP4. Other people can then download the file as MP3 and view the demonstration.

Ms. Lee thanked everyone again for coming. She stated that after the meeting if anyone thinks of issues we need to address to please call us. She commended the staff on doing a good job.

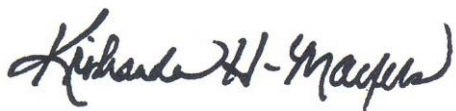
The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



Donna R. Lee
Associate County Agent/Parish Chair
Agriculture & Natural Resources
East Carroll Parish



Glenn E. Dixon
Associate Area Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources
East/West Carroll Parishes



Krishanda H. Mayers
Associate Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development
East Carroll Parish



Carolyn E. Robinson
Associate Area Extension Agent
Family & Consumer Sciences
East/West Carroll Parishes

DRL/GED/KHM/CER:ss

Attachment 1 (List of Current Members)

It is the policy of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability.

**Members and Potential Members of the
East Carroll Parish Extension Overall Advisory Leadership Council**

Irving Arledge	* Kofi Hawkins
* Rosie Armstrong	On'June Hewitt
Jerry Bell	Bo Holt
Sheila Bell	* Doris James
* Harriet Bridges	Paul LeBeau
Andy Brister	Myrtis Magee
* Laurie Brister	* Bill McLain
Jolene Brown	Reynold Minsky
* Mark Brown	* Tommy Morant
* Meagan Brown	* Anita Perry
Ashunti Chase	Karvin Powell
Billy Coleman	Linda Powell
Jason Condrey	Tabitha Reed
* Mattie Dixon	* Tracy Reynolds
Gene Edmondson	Latayatacha Ross
Matt Fortenberry	* Donavon Taves
* Danielle Foster	* Percy Threats
Veola Haley	Don Whitlock

* Members who have agreed to serve on the committee