



**Minutes of the West Feliciana Parish
Overall Advisory Council Special Meeting
July 26, 2010**

Members present:

Randy Albarez
James Genius
John Hashagen
John Patrick
Brian Spillman
Aldrema Vessel
Laurie Walsh
Otis Wilson

LSU AgCenter employees present:

Andre' Brock
Pam Myers

Ms. Myers opened the meeting by thanking the participants for their attendance at a special meeting which was called on short notice. She provided members with a written overview of the AgCenter budget projections for 2011-12 as presented to the Board of Supervisors and the implications for the Extension Service. The handout also included contact information for legislators and for local members of the Board of Supervisors and Board of Regents.

Ms. Myers pointed out to the group that because the AgCenter is not like most campuses of the LSU System it does not have the ability to offset state budget cuts through tuition. In addition, because the vast majority of the budget is in personnel it is impossible to sustain major cuts again without cutting personnel. She showed the committee members the projections for about 100 layoffs in the Extension Service across the state and how those break down in different programmatic areas. The group discussed how that might affect programs in West Feliciana Parish and agreed that it would be difficult for any parish to be unaffected with such large cuts.

Members expressed willingness to contact Board of Supervisors members and other officials prior to the August Board of Supervisors meeting to make them aware of the value of Extension programs to the people of the parish and state.

The meeting continued with follow-up on the issue of local funding which was discussed in March. Ms. Myers told the group she had contacted the sheriff's office about some local support, and that the level of funding from the school board would remain the same this year. She told the group that local funding might be a factor in decisions on layoffs or other cuts resulting from any state budget reduction. Several people asked about the possibility of funds from private sources such as local businesses, Entergy, grants, etc. Ms. Myers will find out about that and send the information out by e-mail.