

Iberia Leadership Advisory
Council Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2011

Present: Darlene French and Leanne Breaux

Extension Agents: Blair Hebert and Nikki LeMaire

Meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Blair Hebert. Members introduced themselves followed by their interests and involvement with the LSU AgCenter and the community. Blair discussed the 4-H Agent positions and the FCS situation explaining Nikki LeMaire's new assignment in Iberia Parish.

The following was then reviewed and explained:

- 1) The purpose of the Advisory Board System: allows stakeholder input, leadership development, create public awareness of the value of the Extension Service and its programs, and to conduct educational programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Science and 4-H Youth Development. Our mission is to improve lives through education and research throughout rural and urban Louisiana.
- 2) The group reviewed the programming areas of the LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. Next year there will be 2 areas as 4-H Youth Development and FCS have merged.
 - a) Agriculture and Natural Resources-discussed by Blair Hebert
 - b) Family and Consumer Sciences-discussed by Nikki LeMaire
 - c) 4-H Youth Development-discussed by Blair Hebert
- 3) Past meeting minutes: Darlene French motioned, Leanne Breaux seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting (December 14, 2010) as presented-motion passed.
- 4) Issues from last meeting (December 14, 2010):
Blair informed the group that the issues identified at the last meeting are being addressed through educational programming efforts including: workshops, newsletters, and cooperating with the local agents and state specialists, volunteers and local service agencies.
- 5) The group then reviewed issues identified at the 2011 Programming Advisory Committee Meetings:

ANR:

- Cultural & Management Practices
- Financial Issues/Education (of public & land owners)
- Labor and Language Education

FCS

-Health and Nutrition as well as Obesity (State Initiative)

4-H Youth Development:

- Safety Awareness
- Character/Respect
- Coastal Conservation-Youth Wetlands Week

Budget/Funding:

- State budget was discussed and how this affects the LSU AgCenter
- Iberia Parish Government, Iberia Parish School Board and Family Division of District Attorney's office currently provide local support; goal is to reach 20% of salaried positions from local sources by July 1, 2012.
- Group discussed asking municipalities, sheriff's office and private businesses such as McIlhenny, Cargil and Aggreko for local support.
- Blair explained given budget situation Iberia would have 4 agents, 1 paraprofessional and 1 secretary instead of 2
- Blair also explained that budget cuts have forced the LSU AgCenter to reduce the Number of Research Stations and downsize others; as a result the Iberia Research Station in Jeanerette will lease approximately ½ of its land and one scientist has been transferred to another research station.

Other

-After much discussion of the budget and changes in elected officials on the local level a motion was made by Darlene French, seconded by Leanne Breaux to work on the following goals:

- 1) To continue to obtain support on the local level from governing bodies and elected officials for:
 - a) 20% of salaried positions
 - b) Maintaining staff (agents, paraprofessionals and secretaries)
 - c) Maintaining office/facility
- 2) Continue political support from National, State, Regional and locally elected officials through personal contacts.
- 3) Continue membership rotation of the committee with the following names suggested to be oncoming members: Don Delahoussaye, Jerome Fitch and Kenrick "Mushy" Fremin.

-Motion passed.

Other Business:

-Blair explained to the group that with the budget cuts the number of secretaries in the office was being reduced to one and that Mrs. Kathleen Viator was retiring effective February 1, 2012. A gathering in her honor has been scheduled for December 22, 2011.

Summary

-Programming efforts in ANR and 4-H Youth and Family Development should continue as reported by advisory committees and Overall Advisory Committee members strive to meet goals discussed.

Next Meeting

-Group agreed to meet in spring prior to 2012 legislative session so members could contact state and local officials and provide them evidence of importance of the LSU AgCenter.

Adjournment

-With their being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Leanne Breaux, seconded by Darlene French to adjourn. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.