

Advisory Leadership Council Minutes
April 27, 2010

Present: Gayle Miller, Connie Arceneaux, Pam Nevle, Mary Broussard, Richard LaBranche, Mellissa LaBranche, Helen Turner, Charles Kemp, dale Cambre, Natasha Pittman, Christy Sorenson, Bobby Bingham, Kenneth Sharpe.

Dinner was served at 6:30 pm.

Meeting was **called to order** by Chair Connie Arceneaux at 7:00 pm. All participants were introduced and the **role** of the advisory committee was explained. Members were encouraged to add suggestions on programming and needs that they saw that were ones the LSU AgCenter could address.

The **purpose** of the meeting was stated as:

To provide a mechanism for stakeholder involvement in assuring the education, outreach and research programs conducted by the LSU AgCenter are in keeping with the mission, vision and goals of the LSU AgCenter that are effective in meeting the needs of clientele, delivered in a manner that makes them accessible.

To assist AgCenter faculty in providing service to stakeholders by identifying issues of concern to potential audiences.

Situation

- January 09 had \$3.8M cut
- FY 2010 cut to AgCenter for State appropriation was \$6.17 million which is 7.5% cut form FY09
- January 10 mid year cut of \$5.9M
- Anticipate end of year cuts to make up revenue shortfall of \$319M from Revenue Forecasting
- Retirement incentive taken by 58 employees = \$4.5M. Must have retired by Nov 09 but savings not realized until FY 2010.
- 2nd retirement incentive now enrolling – must leave by July 2010
- Executive order limiting State appropriated funds: no out of state travel, acquisitions or repairs, no operating services and supplies, and no professional contracts.
- Locally have retired FCS position held by Laura Perault, lost secretary position to regional office.
- Natasha Pittman has been given a 20% FCS appointment to help with FCS volunteers and local calls.
- Have been told to increase local funds to 20% by July 1, 2012.

Participants received a copy of the Livingston Parish Profile and approved of the new format and content.

Advisory committees report

ANR

Dale Cambre gave the beef report. Prices are better, yet fuel, fertilizer and inputs are high. Planning a spring beef tour to Angola and fall meeting on herd health. Dr. Pruitt is going to be working with us to get benchmark records on cost of production. Producer issues from Beef Advisory meeting are suburban sprawl, lack of beef slaughter facilities, need for marketing alternatives, health issues such as triche and TB, and a viable control for smut grass.

Helen Turner gave the master gardeners report. Have a new set of by-laws, have completed the Watson Boulevard beautification project, working with Seniors apartment beautification and sustainable landscape, working on establishing school butterfly garden, have a monthly plant health clinic at farmers market and looking at a Christmas tree recycling project for January 2011.

Forestry- home building starts are down and timber in very low. Industry is in need of other marketing avenues such as wood pellets and bio fuel from harvest litter. Group toured Cypress Regeneration project at Manchac in spring. Continue to invest in forest education by sending a local teacher to Project learning tree camp.

4-H

Bobby discussed the issues below that were brought up by the 4-H Advisory Council.

The 4-H Advisory Council recommended that the project focus for the 2010-2011 school year be health & fitness. With the reduction in the budget for project books, each child was only allowed 1 project book to start the year and could request more books upon completion. The group recommended that procedure remain the same. They did recommend modifying the enrollment card to only show the project books that the parish offered. The council also recommended investigating the possibility of starting project clubs such as a SET club. The council also discussed the improvement that had been made for the Food Festival. They liked the change from December to January as well as the time change. They also thought the change from having to turn in an entire dish to just one serving size was good. The council suggested expanding the gardening program to reach more youth in the parish. The council would also like to see improvement with the Jr. Leader Club.

Christy gave a general overview of the Livingston Parish 4-H Program.

- The 4-H Program in Livingston Parish has 1500 members, 90 organizational leaders and is in 38 public schools and 1 private school in grades 4th – 12th.
- Monthly educational programs are conducted during club meetings for the 39 4-H clubs. The 2009-2010 school year the focus area was Financial Management.
- The most popular 4-H projects for the Elementary members were Discovering 4-H, the Dog Project and Focus on Photography.

- The most popular 4-H projects for the Jr. High members were Shooting Sports, Gardening and Giddy Up & Go-Horses.
- The most popular 4-H projects for the High school members were Jump Start for Job Seekers, Keeping Fit and Wildlife Conservation.
- 4-H members participate in parish, district and state activities through contest days.
- 4-H members receive monthly newsletters with dates, times and locations of activities.
- 4-H Adult Leaders receive monthly newsletters and emails with up-to-date information on activities.

FCS/FNP

Natasha explained that as in the past, nutrition education available in the parish will focus mostly on low-income target audiences. Natasha then reviewed the target audiences of the Family Nutrition Program along with the program goal, subject matter offered, and how FNP determines eligibility of audiences.

Natasha then gave a report on discussion, suggestions, and ideas from the FCS Advisory Council Meeting which was held in March 2010. The top issues related to expanding FNP education in Livingston Parish were to partner with LVFC to expand America On the Move programming into FNP eligible schools to create walking programs and monthly nutrition education sessions; partner with the new North Oaks hospital once opened in Livingston to offer education where appropriate; partner with the LPSB Resource Center in Walker to distribute nutrition education information and conduct workshops; offer educational workshops in eligible Class A childcare facilities; offer Master Nutrition volunteer program in Livingston; partner with library summer programs – if Natasha can't because of FNP restrictions, then possibly the LVFC can assist; offer educational programs and materials at Council on Aging meal sites. There was much discussion about Livingston Volunteers for Family & Community (LVFC) assisting in program implementation to help fill the needs in the parish

Issues

- To help with funding, look at grants as a possible funding stream. Example: urban forestry grants
- Composting and recycling needed. Particularly wood waste
- Recycling of hazardous materials such as computers, printers and printer cartridges needed. Many people are buying new printers because it is cheaper than buying cartridges.
- Need recycling of paper products and cardboard.
- Could use education programs on how to maintain septic systems.
- Need more programming on food preservation such as canning and freezing. With the down turn in economy and upturn in vegetable production there is resurgence in need to learn of to

keep what people grow. Also noted that there was a shortage of vegetables plants and seeds the past 2 years but realize there is little the AgCenter can do about supply.

- If 4-H wants to get school gardens or Jr. Master Gardener programs going then use Master Gardener volunteer hours to assist with the implementation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.