

LaSalle Parish
Overall Advisory Leadership Council Meeting
April 7, 2011

The LaSalle Parish Overall Advisory Leadership Council met on April 7, 2011 at 3 p.m. in the Extension Meeting Room. Kim Evans, LaSalle Parish Chair welcomed all council members.

Present were: Nelda Tarver, Elaine Grimm, Marilyn Neely, Murphy McMillin, Janis Braud, Cindy Powell, and Twyman Appleby. Members that agreed to serve but could not be present were Karen Creel, Brenda Gardner, Kelly Hudspeth, Debbie McCartney, Chris Peters, and Nobie Ross, Roy Breithaupt, and Cindy Hailey.

Evans introduced Carli McClure, Assistant Extension Agent, and Rodney Johnson, County Agent. She explained that Carli McClure was hired in August of 2010 to do primarily 4-H Club work and a small amount of agriculture work. Rodney Johnson is assigned to work in Rapides, Grant, and LaSalle Parishes. Johnson has been assisting with LaSalle Parish agriculture program since the retirement of James Summers.

Evans discussed the roles and responsibilities of the LaSalle Parish Overall Advisory Leadership Council. She asked members to sign the forms stating they were willing to serve on this committee.

Nelda Tarver, FCS Advisory Council member, reported on the issues identified by the FCS Advisory Council. Issues identified in order of priority were:

- Parenting, especially teen parents and grandparents raising grandchildren
- Health and Nutrition
- Drug Awareness especially for young children

Marilyn Neely, 4-H Advisory Council member, reported on issues identified by the 4-H Advisory Council. Issues identified were:

- Character Education-Self Esteem
- Healthy Living
- Workforce Preparation

Evans informed the group that the ANR committee had met earlier that afternoon. Issues identified were:

- Lawn, Garden and Ornamentals
- Fertilization
- Pasture Management
- Forestry

Evans asked members to look over the issues identified and to discuss how these areas were related and could be best addressed. Members discussed how the nutrition and health was connected to the Healthy Living issue. They also mentioned that gardening could compliment nutrition and health, as well as healthy living. Murphy McMillin, Mayor of Jena, explained that the Town of Jena was interested in providing a Community Garden for local citizens. They were searching for a group to take the lead in this project. Johnson discussed how the LSU AgCenter could assist in providing information on gardening. Neely suggested the master gardeners might also assist with procedures to follow. Evans could provide additional information on food preservation to utilize any surplus of the gardens.

Janis Braud told the group that the local Boys and Girls Club is working to provide a safe and educational environment for children during afterschool hours. Braud suggested that some of the programs developed to meet the needs of the community be presented at the Boys and Girls Club.

Evans updated the council on the AgCenter budget situation. Budget cuts have been made and the possibility of additional cuts is probable, both at the state and federal level.

Local funding from the LaSalle Parish School Board and LaSalle Parish Police Jury has been at ten percent for the past five years. The goal of the LSU AgCenter is to reach twenty percent local funding level by July 1, 2011. The LaSalle Parish Police Jury has agreed to pay half of the twenty percent. The LaSalle Parish School Board will discuss this matter before July 1.

Evans thanked all members for attending. She asked that they talk to any of the Extension staff if they have suggestions, questions, or concerns any time during the year. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.