

**BOSSIER PARISH ADVISORY  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 2, 2011**

The Bossier Parish Advisory Leadership Council met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 2, 2011. Those attending included:

Kenneth Smith, Bossier Farm Bureau  
Eddy Presley, Bossier Parish School Board  
Christy Presley, W. T. Lewis Elementary School  
Jeannie Crnkovic, 4-H Youth Development  
Alex Shook, 4-H Youth Development  
Alison Smith, Administrative Coordinator  
Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Forestry Agent/Parish Chair

Ricky welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking the time to attend. He reviewed the minutes from the last meeting held on August 4, 2010. He shared some of the successes and accomplishments of the Bossier Parish Extension office since that August meeting.

1. The Bossier 4-H program is the largest 4-H program in the 13-parish Northwest Region of Louisiana.
2. Agriculture and forestry numbers for the state and parish were up from 2010 as compared to 2009. After several years in a row of slow decline, this is the first upward movement. Forestry severance tax for Louisiana in 2010 was \$13.6 million, up from \$12.6 million in 2009. Bossier Parish timber severance tax for 2010 was \$189,585.
3. Terry Foster's parenting classes through the parish correctional facilities has had a significant improvement. Terry recently doubled up on class times she teaches each week to better accommodate the completion of the course by participants, as there is a high turnover rate at the facility. This allowed for a much higher percentage to complete the entire course.
4. The Bossier City Council has joined in to provide a higher level of local support of the parish Extension office. The council needs to be a part of this committee, so Ricky will work on bringing in representation from that group before the fall meeting. When Ricky visited with the Council, they were unaware of how much we did for the citizens of Bossier.
5. In addition to the 4-H program, homeowner calls for lawns, trees, gardens, consumer science, nutrition, etc., are provided for Bossier City residents. Katherine Ervin, who is the 1890 Extension Aide in our office, works with underprivileged families in the city with classes on nutrition, family strengthening, budgeting, character education, parenting and other topics.
6. We developed a relationship with the Bossier Press Tribune, who was anxious to receive news stories on Bossier 4-H, home and lawn care, family life and other general public areas of interest. We provide a weekly article for the Tribune. The editor was very excited at first and printed the articles on a regular basis. However, the paper has more recently stopped printing the AgCenter news releases we provide. We will visit again with the editor to try and re-energize this effort. Ricky asked committee members to visit with the editor and enquire about the AgCenter articles and why they are no longer being printed.

Ricky shared with the group issues that were listed a year ago by the committee which included the following:

- Water concerns, ground water use and the need for using surface water as an alternative
- The road situation in north Bossier Parish as it continues to grow and develop
- Redistricting for schools
- South Bossier school flow
- Population boom in Bossier Parish
- Growth and anticipated growth at Barksdale AFB (the need for a school on base)
- Access between Bossier City and Shreveport
- School class sizes are too large
- Need for maintaining strong 4-H program
- Educational programs need to be conducted during incarceration rather than after release
- Immediate concern – rivers and bayous already high – potential for flooding

The participants then discussed current issues that the Bossier Parish Extension office should consider in program development. These issues included:

- Schools to have hands-on gardening projects for youth
- Possibility that science teachers could help since there are no agriculture teachers
- Have a master gardener program in Bossier Parish
- Internet and social media as learning tools for high school youth
- Drainage

The Beef Referendum Check-Off and wild hog problems were discussed.

Ricky reiterated that the Bossier Parish office would continue to provide programs and services for Bossier Parish residents and that our 4-H program remains very strong in Bossier Parish.

The group adjourned at 4 p.m. and will meet again in October.