



**ST. HELENA PARISH – LCES  
ADVISORY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
August 12, 2010**

**MINUTES**

Angela Myles called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were: Beth Karl, John K. Holiday, Hampton Gremwald, Dr. Bobby Fletcher, Mack Hurst, Jessica Ledet, Brenda Hurst, Byron Hurst, Sonni King, James Baker, Toni Melton, Darrell Griffin, Richard Womack and Sharonda Brown.

- Angela welcomed everyone to the Advisory Leadership Council meeting. Everyone then introduced themselves and their roles. Angela went over the mission of the LSU/SU AgCenter.
- Dr. Fletcher then introduced himself and told how the St. Helena AgCenter office is special because it is comprised of both LSU and Southern University AgCenter employees. He said the point of the meeting is to go over the budget. He said the St. Helena Parish AgCenter office is benefitting because of local support from the St. Helena Police Jury. He talked about the value of programs offered by the AgCenter which benefit the parish.
- Hampton Gremwald then spoke about the budget. He said the state appropriation has been reduced more than \$19 million, meaning the AgCenter budget has been reduced by 22%, and will be reduced next year by 23%. He said 68% of our budget comes from the state. Exact numbers will not be known until September possibly. He also said 80 – 85% goes to AgCenter agents.
- If the cut does go through, the AgCenter will have to make changes. He asked people to call or contact their legislators to let them how our programs are helping them.  
  
He said if we have a 23% reduction next year, we may not be able to have an office in every parish. If we do not let the legislators know, we will have to make changes. He also distributed a handout titled, *AgCenter: Focus on the Budget*. This handout is also available online.
- Dr. Fletcher told how volunteerism is the best form of advocacy. He said there are 97 4-H agents in the state. If the 23% reduction goes through, there could be only 64 agents.
- Angela asked everyone to be advocate for our programming, and take a few moments to jot down ways to make the LSU/SU AgCenter better.
- She then asked everyone for their input on LSU/SU AgCenter programs and list programs they would like to see. Everyone was given a sheet of paper for brainstorming. Responses were:
  - LSU/SU AgCenter is doing a great job
  - Promote more flower pot type gardens (vegetable)
  - Community garden



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**Research and Extension Programs**  
Agriculture  
Economic/Community Development  
Environment/Natural Resources  
Families/Nutrition/Health  
4-H Youth Programs

- More emphasis on advertising what 4-H is and what it has to offer
- Parenting
- Career planning
- Bullying
- Angela then invited everyone to have refreshments, and asked Rev. Hurst to bless the food.
- There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.