

Vermilion 4-H Advisory Leadership Council

Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2006

1:10 p.m.

Members present were: Troy Mouton, Chairperson; Nancy Marceaux, Lilly Turner, Leah Patout, Lenita Turner, Charles E. Dill, Jr., Alex LeBlanc, Vickie Patout, Diane Meaux Broussard, Jared Broussard, Claudette Broussard, Austin Mouton, Lynn Moss, Gwen Broussard, Leah Trahan, Lanette G. Hebert, Manique LeBlanc, Lauren Mouton, Barbara Griffin, Jessica Koch, David Dupuis, Sarah Dill, Jamieson Dill, Hilton Waits, Shannan Waits, Andrew Granger, and Sylvia Trahan.

Troy Mouton, Chairperson welcomed everyone and asked David Dupuis to lead the group in the American Pledge and Jessica Koch to lead the 4-H Pledge. Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated.

Andrew Granger, Parish Chairman, welcomed everyone and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the council. He stressed each members role in success of 4-H in Vermilion Parish. The purpose of the LSU AgCenter is to extend research based information to assist clients in solving problems in various areas. The same applies to 4-H, the AgCenter provides research based information on youth development and 4-H agents, give this information out at meetings to club members, leaders and parents.

Andrew explained that the advisory process is based on individual members and what they have to say. Agents take what you say and design teaching objectives based on these suggestions. These suggestions are then evaluated the next year, which is part of what you will be doing today.

He explained to members that they were chosen to be on the council because of the group they represent or because they are leaders in the community, but most importantly because we respect their opinions concerning 4-H.

Andrew thanked everyone for coming and urged them to be open and honest with their suggestions for the upcoming 4-H year.

Shannan then explained the roles and responsibilities system for the Leadership Advisory System, which is another name for our Advisory Committee. She asked everyone to

read over the yellow copy of the roles and responsibilities of council members, then sign the back and turn it in to her before they leave. Any teenager must also have their parent sign the letter giving them permission to serve on the council. The letter goes over the purpose of the council and your responsibilities as a member.

The minutes had been mailed to all members. Everyone was provided with another copy at the meeting and Troy asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. Troy pointed out that the actions taken on last years suggestions were typed in italics. Charles E. Dill, Jr. moved that the minutes be approved at mailed, it was seconded by David Dupuis, motion passed.

Hilton presented an overview of the parish program and the 4-H calendar for 2006-2007. Members reviewed the statistical report which shows trends in participation in various parish and state activities. He also went over the Annual Report that is presented to the Vermilion Parish Police Jury and School Board members. This report shows programs and educational activities that are conducted during the year. In going over the reports, Hilton pointed out that, despite Hurricane Rita's devastating impact on Vermilion Parish, the only 4-H activity that had to be cancelled was the La. Cattle Festival Cooking Contest and Livestock Show.

At 4-H University this past June, Vermilion brought 84 contestants to Baton Rouge, which was the largest delegation in the state. Agents also brought 116 kids to 4-H Camp last week.

The Jr. Leader Club has also been very active. They recently elected club officers for 2006-2007 and they are present today as committee members.

Hilton then presented a draft of the 2006-2007 Yearly Calendar. He explained that not all dates for events held at schools have been confirmed because they have not yet met with principals. They plan to do so the first two weeks in August.

The Junior Leader Club's Community Service Learning project for the coming year was presented by Leah Patout, Jr. Leader Club President. She explained that this year's project would focus on environmental issues and would be done in conjunction with the Jeff Davis and Calcasieu parish 4-H clubs. They would be focusing on three areas: coastal erosion, litter, and pollution. Each parish will be planning projects in their respective parishes, as well as a joint project to be done over the Easter Holidays.

The service learning trend of community service focuses on a long term project goal, rather than many individual projects. Shannan encouraged members to contact either her or Hilton if they were interested in developing a service learning project for their club.

The next item discussed was club meeting programs. Agents are excited about this year's program - science experiments which will focus on food and fiber. Hilton and Shannan developed the program on how plant roots work. All of the programs will be hands on types of activities.

Agents then discussed prioritizing parish programming for 2006-2007. This is where agents get input on how 4-H can have an impact on the needs of the community. Everyone was given paper to write ideas on. Everyone was asked to submit two ideas on what Vermilion 4-H can do to touch the lives of youth in the parish, such as, youth development, youth issues, or any other area there is a need that can be addressed.

After topics were written and posted, each author was asked to persuade the group as to why his or her issue was important to 4-H. Ideas presented were: acknowledging positive teen role models; career exploration; get people involved; compassion for others; go out and vote; motivation apathy; substance abuse; computer education; self confidence; creativity; bullies; assisted funding for children; developing communication skills; increase or improve communication about 4-H to parents; environmental issues; etiquette classes; increase the number of project/activity groups (use Junior Leaders as guides); public speaking skills; gun safety; boating safety classes; hurricane and disaster relief; decision making; record book clinics; need to be more aware of community needs, such as, litter, elderly, etc. and help kids understand they can make a difference. At the end of the discussion, each person was given 3 stickers to place on the top three issues they wanted to be the focus for the upcoming year. The three chosen were: etiquette (to include communication and technology etiquette – cell phones, internet, etc.); increase project activity clubs/record book clinics/public speaking; and increase awareness of community needs, such as litter, the elderly, etc. and help children understand that they can make a difference.

Diane Meaux Broussard spoke about the Keep Abbeville Beautiful Committee (KAB). The group has started in Abbeville and hope to get other towns in the parish involved. She invited everyone to join and come to a meeting to see what the group is doing.

Troy asked members for feedback on last year's activities. Everyone seemed pleased with the events and activities. Shannan talked about the Portfolio for 6-12th grade that was piloted in Vermilion last year. It will be used on a statewide basis this year.

The Portfolio includes a page entitled, "4-H and You" where members can comment on; their favorite 4-H activity; who is your role model in 4-H; one thing you learned this year in 4-H; and if you were in charge of 4-H in your parish – how would you make it better? Raw data was collected from these four questions and compiled for members to review. Opinions on the Portfolio were asked for from members who had completed it or parents who had helped complete it. All comments were positive and everyone was pleased that it will replace the old form. The only complaint was that the online form cannot be saved unless you have the full version of Adobe Acrobat. You must print it out before you close the program and if you want to add anything, you have to retype the whole page. Shannan said that some were typing the information in a Word document and then copying and pasting it into the pdf. file. She suggested that as a way to save your information on the computer.

When asked for any other comments on how to improve programming, Austin Mouton suggested extending Challenge Camp. He said Friday to Sunday is not long enough to interact with youth from other parishes. He felt everyone would get more out of it if the camp lasted at least five days, like 4-H Camp.

Vickie Patout discussed a problem at Demonstration Day. Those who were waiting in the halls were talking and disturbing those in the rooms doing their demonstrations. Also, there were younger children waiting in line and the older ones cut in front of them. Several suggestions were given: hold kids in the gym or mall area and use walkie talkies to call them when it is their turn. Online pre-registration was also suggested. Nancy Marceaux and Vickie Patout will chair a sub-committee to design a workable plan. Members were encouraged to submit ideas to the committee for consideration.

Nancy Marceaux brought up the idea of using scan-trons for Achievement Day. David Dupuis said we could use the two machines at Kaplan High, 4-H would just have to purchase their own cards and ink cartridge for the machine. It was agreed that agents would pick a division to pilot and make note of the change in Achievement Day rules so 4-H'ers will be aware of the change.

Another suggestion was to have Junior Leader Club members adopt an elementary club in their area. Different members could attend club meetings and discuss and explain upcoming activities like Personal Development (do mock interview, tell them how to dress, etc.) or Demonstration Day (explain how to do demonstration, etc.).

Shannan showed the group the new enrollment cards for all grades. She pointed out that there will be two new foods books and two new forestry books. Hilton pointed out that there is always a big request for the Outdoor Skills book, but as we do not have a coordinator, we will not be able to give out the books this year. It was suggested agents put a request for a coordinator in the September *Leader Update*.

Shannan asked for recommendations for 4-H University in writing or verbal as soon as possible. She will pass them on to the committee.

Diane Meaux Broussard brought one of the new voting machines with her to the meeting and encouraged everyone to try it out before they left.

Alex LeBlanc plans to continue with a Discovering 4-H project club, as well as starting an environmental project club in one form or another to individual 4-H clubs.

Troy then called for nominations for chairperson. Claudette Broussard nominated Troy and as there were no other nominations, she was elected by acclamation.

On a motion by Alex LeBlanc and seconded by Vickie Patout, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Signed: _____

Sylvia Trahan

4-H Secretary, Vermilion Parish

LSU AgCenter