

Vermilion 4-H Advisory Leadership Council

Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2007

1:05 p.m.

Troy Mouton called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Members present were: Troy Mouton, Chairperson; Jamieson Dill; Sedra Marceaux; Nicholas Broussard; Richard Hebert; ;Denise LeBlanc; Coy Prejean; Victoria LeBlanc; Jessica Koch; Austin Mouton; Ricky LeBouef; Leah Delahoussaye; Gwen Broussard; Nancy Marceaux; Lovelace Greene, Jr.; Barbara Griffin; Alex LeBlanc; Lauren Mouton; Diane Meaux Broussard; June Simon; agents; Shannan Waits, Hilton Waits, and Andrew Granger; and Sylvia Trahan, 4-H Secretary.

Richard Hebert led the American Pledge and Coy Prejean led the 4-H Pledge.

Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated.

Austin Mouton, Junior Leader Officer and Southwest Region Representative on the State 4-H Executive Committee, presented a program on parliamentary procedure. He also distributed handouts on the subject as part of his program.

Andrew Granger, Parish Chairman, gave opening remarks to the group. He explained the purpose of the 4-H Advisory Leadership Committee and thanked everyone for giving their time to serve. He explained member duties and responsibilities are: to discuss issues affecting the youth in our parish; review the 4-H program; comment on programs in place and whether or not they need to be changed; give input and ideas for program improvement; provide new programming ideas; and encouraged everyone to voice their opinion on what is best for the youth as a whole, not just concentrate on one part of the group.

Hilton then went over the Roles and Responsibilities of the LCES Advisory Leadership System. First year members were asked to read and sign the yellow copy of the rules enclosed in their packets and turn them at the close of the meeting. He explained the purpose of the 4-H Youth Development program and why those in attendance were selected to serve. He also went over member responsibilities, roles, time commitment and qualifications.

Shannan reviewed the minutes from the last meeting and identified actions taken on recommendations given at the 2006 meeting. The three programming areas targeted in 2006-2007 were: etiquette, increase project activity clubs/record book clinics/public speaking, and increase awareness of community needs. At clinics and workshops, agents touched on proper etiquette at each activity. Mrs. Diane Broussard spoke on the KAB (Keep Abbeville Beautiful)

campaign at a Jr. Leader Club meeting; Alex LeBlanc took the initiative by presenting environmental learning lessons at club meetings and chaired the Great American Cleanup effort in which many 4-H clubs participated. In order to improve contests and increase participation, Demonstration Day was restructured and Achievement Day 4-6th grade tests were administered using scantron cards. Both events received positive feedback from committee members and parents. More Junior Leader members made presentations at club meetings and Mr. Charles Dill, Jr. assumed the role of Outdoor Skills Coordinator and for the first time, Vermilion had a team that competed in the state competition.

On a motion by Ricky LeBouef, seconded by Nancy Marceaux, the minutes were approved as presented.

Hilton reviewed the Vermilion 4-H Annual Report of parish programs. He explained that the report is used to present to the Vermilion Parish School Board and Police Jury organizations and shows what 4-H is doing to improve youth development in our area. Achievement Day continues to be our largest event and the changes were well received. Demonstration Day and Record Book participation increased this year and 4-H University continues to be the highlight of 8-12th grade members. We brought 80 members to Baton Rouge this year. 4-H Camp continues to draw large numbers, we brought 125 4-6th graders to camp this summer.

The Junior Leader Club continues to be a strong asset to our program. They have a very aggressive Service Learning program. Last year the focus of the project was the environment. They received a grant from Coca-Cola and planted 5,000 beach plants west of Holly Beach, Louisiana. This was done in conjunction with the Calcasieu and Jeff Davis Junior Leader Clubs.

Club meeting program content will be science based again this year and will focus on Coastal Creatures. Agents strive to make sure projects are relative to those in the community and timely.

Shannan reviewed the tentative 4-H calendar. She suggested that agents not conduct meetings in the month of March because of LEAP testing and scheduling conflicts. She proposed having meetings in December instead, as this is a month which is normally without meetings. Nicholas Broussard moved, and Gwen Broussard seconded, to change the March meetings to December. Motion passed unanimously.

A discussion on the dates to hold Achievement Day, Demonstration Day and when to turn in Record Books was held. Austin Mouton moved and Lauren Mouton seconded a motion to keep Demonstration Day on January 12th. The motion failed. Barbara Griffin moved and

Lovelace Greene, Jr. seconded a motion to move Demonstration Day to February 2nd. The motion passed. The committee also voted that Record Books would be due March 11th and Achievement Day held on April 12th.

Austin Mouton explained the Junior Leader Community Service Learning project for 2007. Three clubs: Vermilion, Calcasieu and Jeff Davis, worked together and decided on the theme for 2007-2008. It will be "4-H Celebrates Life" and will deal with youth issues. The Vermilion club has decided to focus on meningitis awareness. They will have guest speakers at meetings, raise awareness of the disease, and raise money for the National Meningitis Association and the Jane Menard Memorial Scholarship. Suggestions from the committee were:

- Bring awareness programs to schools and target 11-19 year olds.
- Have a parish-wide meningitis awareness day
- Get local 4-H clubs involved in efforts
- Donate percentage of proceeds from Jr. Leader fund raisers
- Host a Pancake Breakfast in the Square

Hilton explained club meeting program lessons would be on "Coastal Creatures" this year. The Southwest Region 4-H agents have written seven lessons and all of them have a "hands on" component that will be lots of fun for club members. The lessons will continue to create an awareness of the importance of our coastline; what goes on there; and what makes up coastal Louisiana. All meeting programs have GLE's included and will be mailed to leaders and principals.

Shannan explained about prioritizing programs for 2007-2008 and asked members to think beyond 4-H and how we can reach other youth and their issues too. Everyone was given blank sheets of paper and asked to write ideas down. After topics were posted, each author was given one minute to persuade the group as to why their topic should be selected. Ideas presented were: health, cultural differences, drug and alcohol awareness, more programs which include students with disabilities, motivation to succeed, job opportunities and job readiness, drunk driving, no place to go and nothing to do, outdoor activity safety, grades in school, peer pressure, internet safety, inappropriate language, morals, bullying, dropouts, dealing with finances, safety, handling grief, parents drinking around children on the farm, self-confidence, college prep, dress to impress, safety with friends and child abuse.

Topics selected as focus areas were: peer pressure, more programs which include students with disabilities and internet safety. Agents will work on action plans for these topics and contact board members to serve on sub-committees if necessary.

Jamieson Dill, State Technology Board member suggested establishing a parish technology board. It was agreed that agents would work with members on establishing a board, as it would work well as part of the focus on internet safety.

In other business, Victoria LeBlanc, president of the ULL Collegiate 4-H Club offered the services of her club members on contest days and asked to be invited to a Junior Leader meeting in order to increase awareness of the organization. Nancy Marceaux suggested they contact high school counselors and request to be included at high school career days.

Hilton brought up a suggestion by Denise LeBlanc to add a dog class at the Dog & Pet Show. After discussion, Austin Mouton moved and Ricky LeBouef seconded a motion to delete the "Most Unusual Dog" category and replace it with the "Best Tail Wagger" category. It will be a trial change and will be re-evaluated at next year's meeting.

Lauren Mouton is working on her thesis at Nicholas State University and met with superintendent Randy Schexnayder to submit a proposal to continue the study done by Troy Mouton on the correlation between those in 4-H and higher LEAP scores. Her proposal is to look back on the last five years parish-wide and see if the correlation is consistent.

Nominations were opened for Chairperson. On a motion by Richard Hebert and seconded by Lovelace Greene, Jr.; Troy Mouton was unanimously re-elected as chairman. On a motion by Barbara Griffin and seconded by Austin Mouton, Sylvia Trahan was unanimously re-elected as secretary.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Signed:_____

Sylvia Trahan

4-H Secretary, Vermilion Parish

LSU AgCenter