

## 2006 Extension Overall Advisory Committee Minutes

The 2006 Extension Overall Advisory Committee Meeting for the fiscal year 2006 was held on Thursday, June 1, 2006 at the Y.O. Center in Lake Providence, Louisiana. The meeting started at 6:20 p.m. with Parish Chairman Mike Rome welcoming everyone and making introductions.

The following were present: staff members – Parish Chairman Mike Rome, Glenn Dixon (ANR), Mary Ann Reed (EFNEP), Dorris Thompson (EFNEP), Kris Mayers (4-H), Lori McLain (Secretary), Sherry Smith (Secretary), Carolyn Robinson (FCS), Sharon Wilder (FFNEWS), Donna Lee (ANR); committee members – Kofi Hawkins, Cietra Stroughter, Clifford Griffin, Dexter Davis, Mattie Dixon, Sister Bernie Barrett, Dorothy Wilson, Sister Karen Flaherty, Paul Brown, Donavon Taves and Arnold Morehouse. A list of the members who have agreed to serve on the committee is enclosed.

Mr. Rome briefly explained why we are having this meeting. Overall advisory meetings were held many years ago using different formats and then the meetings were done away with. We are now conducting overall advisory meetings, using a format as tonight's, which seems to be the better way of doing so. Mr. Rome stated that it is pertinent that committee members and clientele inform the local Extension agents of their wishes for the current programs and for programs they want to see developed. If committee members or clientele see things that are going well or are not going well, the agents should be informed.

The LSU AgCenter is now using Content Management System (CMS) for its Web pages. The parish Web pages are up and running and we are to post all advisory committee members' names on the East Carroll Parish Extension Web page. The fact sheet (LCES Advisory Leadership System: *Responding to the Needs of the People of Louisiana*) you have been given explains in more detail what advisory committees are for, your roles and responsibilities as a member and your time commitment to the committee. Your signature will provide us permission to post your name on our Web page. If people in the community visit our Web page and see your name associated with the Cooperative Extension Service, they might approach you with a request for assistance, and in turn, you should let us know who the person is and what they need so that we can respond to them.

Your time commitment will be established for the number of years you will serve on this committee in a rotation of one, two or three years. We will hold an overall advisory committee two times a year.

At this time, everyone is asked if they have questions pertaining to the set-up of the overall advisory committee. Some of you may know of families that need Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) services or of someone who needs Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) information, etc. Please let us know so that we can make an effort to meet their needs.

We would like to thank you all for helping us to pass the 2.5 millage to help the Cooperative Extension Service remain in East Carroll Parish. Without this tax we would not have money for housing, supplies, building maintenance, etc. Five people have been asked to serve on an advisory committee to oversee how the funds from the tax should and will be used.

Donavon Taves gave his report on the ANR advisory committee meeting that was held in March 2006. A copy of the ANR Advisory Committee Minutes is enclosed.

Mattie Dixon then gave a report on the Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) advisory committee meeting that was held in May 2006. A copy of the FCS Advisory Committee Minutes is enclosed.

Dexter Davis reported on the Economic Development advisory committee meeting that was held in conjunction with the FCS meeting in May.

Kofi Hawkins reported on the 4-H advisory committee meeting that was also held in May 2006. A copy of the 4-H Advisory Committee Minutes is enclosed.

At this time everyone is being asked to think of things we need in the parish pertaining to the overall program or to a specific program area (4-H, ANR, FCS). Please give us your pro or con comments on Extension. We need to know if we are doing things right or wrong; we will happily accept constructive criticism to better our Extension efforts.

Sister Karen Flaherty stated perhaps we could get Atmos Energy, Entergy and BellSouth to sponsor more activities held by Extension. Also, she would like to know more about long distance learning. Why do we limit the audience who receives our information when it could be broadcast to so many more people?

Mr. Rome stated that a Distance Education site is available in the West Carroll Extension office. There is a project being worked on that would bring a mobile unit to East Carroll Parish to be utilized as a Distance Ed site which would be operated through Vo-Tech.

Glenn Dixon asked if people are willing to attend something distance ed.

Donna Lee stated that AgCenter specialists are going to start training agents on the Web. Agents will log in on their computers and receive education over the Internet.

Paul Brown estimated that 50-75% of farmers use the Internet. He said he is not a proficient computer user but he is on his computer several times a day checking email.

Dorris Thompson stated that about 25% of EFNEP families use the Internet.

Kris Mayers said that several 4-H'ers use the 4-H program online. One 4-H'er in particular went to the 4-H site and received a \$1,000 scholarship which he intends to use to buy school supplies for the remaining Hurricane Katrina victims still living in East Carroll Parish. Mrs. Mayers also stated the school system requires students to use the Internet.

Someone commented that perhaps we could work with the library to get grant writers to help furnish access to computers/Internet.

Sister Bernie said we need to get more people involved in helping youth learn a trade that would help them in getting a summer job which would help the community.

Mr. Rome mentioned that grooming and etiquette were issues that were brought up at most of the other advisory meetings this year.

Carolyn Robinson stated that we could have a training camp to teach the youth proper etiquette and grooming techniques at which we would charge a fee to be used to take the participants out to eat where they could practice what they had learned.

Mrs. Mayers informed everyone that 4-H'ers attend an event in Monroe each year where they go to Ryan's Restaurant to eat afterwards. This could be considered informal etiquette training.

Hospitality is another issue that was mentioned. During "First Impressions," two people are paid by the program to spend a weekend in randomly picked towns throughout the state to get a 'first impression' of the town. They want to find out: how the residents treat strangers/travelers; how the residents respond to questions; the answers the residents give; etc.

Mrs. Dixon commented that churches need to be more informed about and involved in activities that Extension sponsors or co-sponsors. Involve the youth ministers, post marketing tools in the churches, etc.

Clifford Griffin requested that kids be more encouraged to be involved in the agriculture area. Perhaps have a field/farm tour for youth. There are a lot of young people who don't know where milk comes from; that people eat pigs, cows, chickens, etc.; and there are numerous other things they are not aware of that pertain to farming.

Mrs. Lee stated that Ag Expo showcases four to six Louisiana grown crops in Ag Alley which is open on Thursday for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to tour. Ag Alley is open to the public on Friday and Saturday. Next year Ag Alley will also be in Delhi during the same time Ag Expo is going on in Monroe. This will bring the educational experience closer to home.

Mrs. Robinson said there is a nutrition program called "From the Field to the Table" that would be beneficial to the youth.

Mr. Rome stated that there is a new program called Agro Tourism. People have expressed the interest in touring cotton gins and other farm related facilities.

Each moderator was in agreement that these advisory meetings are beneficial and they have a better appreciation for Extension.

Mrs. Hawkins said we should develop a marketing tool that lists all the programs that we offer; perhaps a poster that could be left at various businesses and churches in the parish. Arnold Morehouse commented that young people don't know how to freeze and can food. What would they do if we had a disaster here that devastated our environment; if there were no lights, running water or heat? Where would they get food? How would they wash clothes and maintain their personal hygiene? Would they even know how to start a log fire? These are things we need to teach young people (35 years of age and younger).

Mr. Rome replied that food safety and preservation techniques are offered through FCS and EFNEP.

Mr. Dixon stated that the curriculum that Ag instructors teach depends on whether they are geared more toward industrial arts (welding, power tools, etc.) or production (farming, farm animal care, etc.)

The four main issues that were brought up at tonight's meeting are:

1. Etiquette
2. Electronic delivery system – Distance learning
3. Economic Development
4. Marketing Tools

Mr. Rome said that we appreciate everyone coming and thanked them again for their support in helping to pass the 2.5 millage for the Extension Service. He reminded everyone that serving on the overall advisory committee will be a commitment of one, two or three years. He asked that everyone help spread the word about what Extension does and has to offer. If anyone would like to volunteer their time to teach something, please let us know.

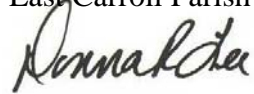
The meeting was adjourned for a light meal and fellowship at 7:45 p.m.




Mike Rome  
Parish Chairman  
East Carroll Parish



Glenn E. Dixon  
Associate Area Agent  
East/West Carroll Parishes



Donna R. Lee  
Assistant County Agent  
East Carroll Parish



Krishanda L. Mayers  
Assistant Extension Agent  
4-H Youth Development  
East Carroll Parish



Carolyn E. Robinson  
Associate Area Extension Agent  
Family & Consumer Sciences  
East/West Carroll Parishes

Attachments 4

It is the policy of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability.