

Extension Overall Advisory Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

The April 3, 2007 meeting of the East Carroll Parish Extension Overall Advisory Leadership Council started at 12:25 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Lake Providence. Parish Chairman Mike Rome opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asked Associate Area Agent Glenn Dixon to return thanks for the food.

The following were present: staff members – Parish Chairman Mike Rome, Donna Lee (ANR), Glenn Dixon (ANR), Carolyn Robinson (FCS), Kris Mayers (4-H), Dorris Thompson (EFNEP), Mary Ann Reed (EFNEP), Patricia Johnkin (EFNEP), Grace Siggers (EFNEP), Sharon Wilder (FFNEWS), Lori McLain (secretary) and Sherry Smith (secretary); committee members - Tommy Morant, Sr. Karen Flaherty, Percy Threats, Danielle Foster, Meagan Brown, Arnold Morehouse, Donavon Taves, Harriet Bridges, Biaster Hewitt-George, Anqueneisha Raymond, Sheila Bell, Tanganeisha Raymond, Mattie Dixon, Joslyn Fairley, Dr. Voleria Millikin, Bill McLain and Henry Collins.

After everyone was well into the meal, Mr. Rome made introductions of the staff. He mentioned that we are very appreciative of Reverend Bill McLain and the First United Methodist Church for the use of their fellowship hall and of Jong's SuperValu and Wal-Mart for donating the sandwich trays.

Mr. Rome reminded everyone that the overall advisory committee meeting represents all program areas of the East Carroll Parish Extension Service. This meeting is an opportunity for the committee members to tell us what they feel Extension needs to do.

Assistant County Agent Donna Lee stated that the Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR) program will probably wait until summer to hold their next ANR Advisory Leadership Council meeting. Ms. Lee also mentioned that she has changed the way she conducts production meetings. This year she contacted some of the chemical companies in the parish and asked them to hold a meeting at their facility where the attendees could be recertified for the pesticide applicator's license and WPS cards. She received positive feedback from this type of production meeting and will probably use this form for future production meetings.

Mr. Dixon reminded everyone that we will continue to be available to the community and to provide the information requested of us.

Ms. Lee mentioned that the ANR program is in the process of getting new signs for the demonstration and variety trial plots in the parish. When people are driving through the parish they may see some of these new signs.

Associate Area Extension Agent Carolyn Robinson thanked everyone who attended the Family & Consumer Sciences Advisory Leadership Council meeting that was held recently. She placed some brochures on the tables for everyone to take with them. These brochures list and describe some of the things that FCS offers to the community. Ms. Robinson asked everyone to please give us their input in reference to our continued work efforts.

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Associate Extension Agent Kris Mayers mentioned that she has taken some of the suggestions that were brought up at the previous 4-H Advisory Leadership Council meetings and put them into action. 4-H in East Carroll Parish has started a 4-H Skillathon where 6th graders receive hands-on experience in several different skills. She reminded everyone to look in the local newspaper for 4-H articles as there is usually at least one printed per week. She also asked everyone to give us their suggestions.

Mr. Rome then said it was time for open discussion. He stated that comments and constructive criticism are welcome. He also mentioned that we are working with the Police Jury on relocating us to a building with a meeting room. If the Health Unit builds their new facility, we may be able to move into their current building.

Percy Threats with the East Carroll Parish Office of Family Support thanked us for doing such a good job. His comment was that he would like to see more home gardens and more children involved in working the gardens.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Voleria Millikin stated that the Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day Camp is an asset to 5th graders; it has opened new horizons for the students. She said she has heard many of them talking about it and that some other areas of interest for the safety day are electricity and poison.

Ms. Mayers gave a brief description of the topics of this year's Farm Safety Day Camp. She said they are looking at incorporating another age group with the 5th graders.

Mr. Threats asked if we have an itinerary for the year.

Mr. Rome informed everyone they can go to the Web site www.lsuagcenter.com, click on parishes, click on East Carroll Parish and view our parish Web page where events may be listed.

Sr. Karen Flaherty made the suggestion that perhaps 4-H could work with other grade levels besides 5th and 6th graders for Farm Safety Day Camp and 4-H Skillathon. She also stated that the marquee at Delta Bank is probably the best media type we have available in the parish as everyone does not receive the local newspaper or get the local cable channel.

Dr. Millikin suggested that 4-H may collaborate with LaGear Up.

Ms. Mayers said that is a good idea, but on some occasions, 4-H activities and LaGear Up activities are held at the same time, therefore, the children can't attend both activities. However, she said she would be cooperative in working with LaGear Up.

Mr. Rome thanked Sr. Karen for her idea of the Hwy. 65 tourism project. It is a successful project and we are starting to see the benefits.

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In reference to the Hwy. 65 project, Mr. Rome mentioned that children should be better supervised when on school buses or not riding with their parents/guardians as he witnessed a school bus turn a corner and it looked like confetti flying from the windows because of the litter the children were throwing out.

Mr. Rome again thanked everyone for coming and giving us their time. He reminded everyone that this is a semi-annual meeting, but we are always available to help people.

The Overall Advisory Leadership Council Meeting adjourned at 1:05 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
Associate Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development
East Carroll Parish



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

MR/GED/DRL/KLM/CER:ss

Attachments 1

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