

Bienville Parish Joint Advisory Leadership Council
October 16, 2006
Bienville Extension Office Conference Room

Eddie White, Parish Chair called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. He outlined the purpose for the meeting and introduced the staff to those members present. Those present included: Mr. Tommy Thompson, President, Bienville Parish Police Jury; Mr. Eugene Smith, Mayor, Town of Arcadia; Mr. William Britt, Superintendent of Schools for Bienville Parish and Mrs. Paula Faulkenberry, Saline 4-H Club Organizational Leader and 4-H Parent. LSU AgCenter personnel present other than White included: Elizabeth Bryan, FNP Agent; Lauribeth Coker, Assistant Extension Agent (4-H/ANR) and Diane Uzzle, Associate Extension Agent (4-H).

Reports from the various area agents who have programming efforts in Bienville Parish were given next with the issues each agent was addressing discussed. Dora Ann Hatch, Community Rural Development provided a report of her efforts in the parish. Those included the farmers market in Gibsland and the regional networking meetings that have begun by the mayors in a six parish area along the Hwy. 167 corridor and the Kellogg Roundtable Talks which provided input on the future of the state's rural areas.

In the area of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), issues had been identified through meetings held by area agents. Rafash Brew, Area Agent (Horticulture), Matt Stephens, Area Agent (Animal Waste/Nutrient Management) and Ricky Kilpatrick (Forestry) had each provided the Parish Chair with issues which they will be addressing during the upcoming programming cycle. In the area of horticulture, the issues affected clientele's quality of life as many people gain relaxation and pleasure from their landscapes. In addition, Eddie also noted that these issues also include efforts related to recreational ponds and shade trees.

Farm sustainability and environmental issues are the main concerns with agricultural producers in Bienville Parish. Matt Stephens assists poultry producers with waste management issues including litter disposal, dead bird disposal and environmental concerns. Eddie pointed out the importance of the poultry industry to the parish and the fact that high input costs together with sometimes unrealistic environmental impact concerns makes sustainability of our poultry industry an important issue.

With the large number of acres in Bienville Parish in timber and a large portion of this owned by private landowners, forestry is most important to the parish. Ricky Kilpatrick reported that the goal of the Extension Foresters in Louisiana is for producers to utilize research based information regarding economic and resource sustainability including but not limited to reforestation, marketing and Best Management Practices (BMP).

Elizabeth Bryan explained her efforts in the Family Nutrition Program (FNP) and the issues she is addressing. Efforts discussed were the fifteen week series of lessons using the OrganWise Guys curriculum within a parish's Headstart facilities. She also discussed the Smart Bodies program, which will be located at two schools in Bienville Parish. The Smart Bodies program is a collaborative effort between LSU AgCenter and Blue Cross Blue Shield composed of three curriculums. The curriculums in the Smart Bodies program are OrganWise Guys, Take 10!, and the Body Walk. Elizabeth discussed

which schools were available for FNP programming within the parish, and how schools qualify for FNP. All schools are available for Smart Bodies.

Diane Uzzle reported on issues being addressed by the 4-H agents with their focus for the year's 4-H Club meetings being health and fitness. In addition she addressed survey results from the 4-H ALC group which determined the focus direction. Efforts to address the issue of health and fitness with the 4-H youth will culminate with programs at Achievement Day and a health fair. Other youth development issues identified were being addressed through service learning projects and other activities being offered to the youth.

The programming efforts in family and consumer sciences along with leadership were also areas of discussion. Issues identified that could be addressed by agents in this area included, self esteem of those caught in poverty, adult education, the need for parenting skills and the lack of a good work ethic in young adults. Questions were raised concerning the lack of a family and consumer sciences agent in the parish and what could be done to address this need.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.