

**ST. HELENA PARISH – LCES
ADVISORY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
April 9, 2009
MINUTES**



Stefen Givens called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Present were: John K. Holiday, Joseph Coleman, Beth Karl, Cassie Karl, Paul Stewart, George Lee, Wesley Blades, Sonni King, Jessica Ledet, Charles, Berry, Toni Melton, Frank E. Johnson, Jim Robb, Angela Myles, Major Coleman, Stefen Givens and Dr. Pam Hodson.

- Stefen welcomed everyone to the first Advisory Leadership Council meeting of the year. He then introduced the extension office staff and gave brief descriptions of their job duties and those of the extended staff members. There followed self introductions by others attending the meeting.
- Dr. Hodson then spoke to the group explaining their role is no longer as one of providing advice, but serving as an advocate for their parish extension service office and the AgCenter.
- She said the point of the meeting is to discuss the economic issues facing the AgCenter.
- Dr. Hodson gave a brief history of budget cuts over recent years, saying that over time, 300 positions have been lost through hiring freezes because higher education and department of health services are not protected as are other state agencies.
- She reviewed programs and positions being lost with the current budget reduction and the resulting freeze.
- Dr. Hodson told the group as advocates they need to make contact with Rep. John Bel Edwards to ask him to pass a resolution in support of funding for the AgCenter. She said Police Jury Association has already approved one. Discussion about various contacts followed.
- Dr. Hodson then asked for questions and comments. Discussion considering the various areas affected followed. Other means of contacting the representatives and governor were discussed.
- Dr. Hodson thanked everyone for their questions and input.
- Stefen gave everyone an information sheet showing statistics for St. Helena Parish and 4-H work being done in the Southeast Region. He said the parish school board pays for each student to be enrolled in 4-H. Children living in the parish, but attending school outside the parish are enrolled through funds provided by the 4-H Foundation. He said the AgCenter office has an excellent working relationship with other agencies in the parish.
- Major Coleman told the group the Police Jury will be passing a resolution in support of the AgCenter's programs.
- There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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