

DeSoto Parish Overall Parish Advisory Leadership Council
Minutes
Tuesday, March 31, 2009
DeSoto Parish Extension Office
Grand Cane, LA

The DeSoto Parish ALC meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Chuck Griffin, DeSoto Parish Chair, who welcomed the members of the Council. Thirty five members and guest were in attendance.

Chuck gave a power point presentation of the programs that had been conducted in DeSoto Parish for 2008 – 2009 in the three program areas (ANR, 4-H and FCS). Chuck introduced the staff and then introduced Dr. Pat Colyer, Northwest Regional Director, who gave an update of the work being done in the Northwest District in both Extension and Research.

The meeting was then turned over to Dr. Hampton Grunewald, Governmental Relations in the Office of Chancellor; Dr. Grunewald went over the expected short fall in the budget of the LSU AgCenter. He explained that it was Louisiana State Law that we work with a balance budget. It seems that education is one area that has no protection of being cut in funding. The income to the State has been estimated to be lower because in part to the lower price of oil. The LSU AgCenter does not have the option to raise tuition to make up for the short fall so potential cuts in programs and staff might occur in order to balance the budget.

The DeSoto Parish Advisory Leadership Council voiced their concerns and expressed their willingness to support the DeSoto Extension Service. Contact information on legislators from the area and a need for continued local financial support was discussed.

Main Issue:

1. Maintain current funding from State and Local Government in order to support all the programs that LSU AgCenter provides.

Next meeting will be scheduled in the Spring of 2010 or earlier if needed.