

DeSoto Parish Overall Parish Advisory Leadership Council
Minutes
Tuesday, July 15, 2008
DeSoto Parish Extension Office
Grand Cane, LA

The DeSoto Parish ALC meeting was called to order at 12 noon by Chuck Griffin, DeSoto Parish Chair, who welcomed the members of the Council

Fifteen members were in attendance. Chuck introduced the staff and asked members to introduce themselves and state who they were representing. Members in attendance were as followed:

Jeannie Rogers (ANR), Joey Register (ANR/4-H), Lisa Register (ANR/4-H), Carolyn Rister (4-H), Bennie Hall (The Enterprise), Jimmy Stephen (DeSoto Tax Assessor), Leeah Brown (4-H), Girlie Howard (4-H), Jameka Howard (4-H), Josh Salley (4-H intern), Chuck Griffin (County Agent), Molly Farrar (4-H agent), Mindy Kile (4-H agent), Callie Woodard (Southern University FCS agent) and Patricia Lee (Southern University FCS agent).

Chuck went over the purpose of the meeting and also the role of the Overall Parish Advisory Leadership Council. Chuck than talked about the mission and purpose of the LSU Ag Center Extension Service. He explained the history of forming the Land Grant University, Research Stations and the Extension Service. Chuck explained how the LSU AgCenter is organized, the Administrative structure of the AgCenter and that we are one of eight campuses in the LSU System. Chuck said that DeSoto Parish is one of sixty four offices at the parish level and that DeSoto was in the Northwest Region under the direction of Dr. Pat Colyer. Chuck stressed the importance of the Research Stations in order to accomplish our mission and showed where the nineteen stations are located. Chuck also explained the additional resources that we utilized with the faculty that have joint appointments on the LSU Campus and are housed in fifteen different departments. Chuck than went over how we are funded and he expressed appreciation to both the DeSoto Parish Police Jury and the DeSoto Parish School Board which contributes 10% of the salaries and benefits for the agents housed in DeSoto. He stressed that we will soon be looking to collect 21% of our funding from local Government to support agent salaries which is the Southern Average.

Chuck Griffin than reported on the educational programs being conducted in the Agriculture and Natural Resources area. Chuck handed out minutes of last years meeting along with a Program Highlights for 2007 - 2008. Chuck reported on the economical impact of the three major agriculture commodities (Forestry, Dairy, Beef) in the parish and added that the poultry and blueberry industry adds another \$9.5 million to local economy.

Patricia Lee and Callie Woodard reported on the current and planned programs being conducted in the Family and Consumer Science area. Chuck Griffin explained the EFNEP program which Connie Aclin supervises in both Caddo and DeSoto Parish. 150 families are served with our three nutrition educators. A four day sewing workshop for youth and food preservation workshop was conducted. Also 140 sixth graders and teachers gained knowledge about food nutrition because of a series of nutrition lessons. Callie Woodard reported on her parenting classes and her involvement with the Youth Educational Support. Patricia Lee reported on her nutrition workshops conducted at Mansfield Head Start and Upward Bound Ministry. Also Patricia reported on her local FCS Advisory meeting.

Molly Farrar reported on the 4-H program. She reported that plans on having an advisory Leadership Council for 4-H will be scheduled soon since Mindy Kile was hired. Pictures were shown of Challenge Camp, 4-H University, Sewing Workshop, Livestock Awards Trips, Arbor Day Celebration along with Parish Fair, State Fair, Spring Show and Southern Show pictures.

The attached tri-fold titled "Serving DeSoto Parish through Education" explains some impacts from all three program areas.

Chuck Griffin than asked the question;

"Knowing what you do about the mission of the LSU AgCenter Cooperative Extension Service what are some of the issues facing residents of this parish that you feel the AgCenter can address through research-based educational programs"

The group came up with the following list with some discussion.

ANR

1. Deer Management, Wildlife Habitat Management, native food plots, hunter safety (gun, tree stand, ATV, etc)
2. Gardening, Landscape design, Bird Watching
3. Continue working with Beef, Dairy, Blueberry, Poultry and Forestry
4. Consider alternative fuel educational event.

4-H

1. Workshop on Personal development (resume, job interview, proper dress etc).
2. Scholarship and project book workshop
3. Project Day with habitat management, outdoor cooking.
4. Outdoor shooting sports and continue working on JAKES day.
5. With people getting gas money have people sponsor 4-Her's in all different activities (Camp, 4-H University, etc)
6. Include more activities in Parish Fair such as talent show, photo contest, rabbit and chicken show etc.
7. Combine sew with cotton and cooking contest into a day long event.

FCS.

1. Quick and Easy meals at home.

Chuck thanked the committee for their time and very good suggestions. He suggested that the items be separated into the three main program areas and the 4-H, ANR and FCS advisory leadership council prioritize and come up with plans to implement.

The next meeting will be scheduled for the spring of 2009.

The DeSoto Parish Staff thanked all those that attended and the meeting was adjourned.