



Minutes
Overall Concordia Parish Advisory Leadership Council
November 30, 2006
Concordia Bank Meeting Room, Ferriday, LA – 11:00a.m.

The meeting was opened with a prayer.

Chairman Joe Parker introduced himself and welcomed those attending the session. He outlined who would be speaking during the meeting before introducing County Agent Glen Daniels.

Glen Daniels

Daniels explained that the citizens comprising the Concordia Parish advisory Leadership Council would serve with complete autonomy. After thanking Parker for serving as chairman and Kathleen Stevens for serving as secretary, Daniels explained that the group would be expected to create a list of needs within the parish that the LSU Cooperative Extension staff might address.

All attendees introduced themselves. Those attending included: Bridget Martin, Liz Brooking, Delynn Vines, Jerry Cook, Kathleen Stevens, Betty Beverly, Joe Parker, Russell Wagoner, State Representative Andy Anders, Calvin Adams, Wilbert Washington and Beverly Harris. Also, extension personnel Glen Daniels, Terri Crawford, Joe Bairnsfather and Shevawn James.

Terri Crawford

Terri Crawford, Extension Agent, Family & Consumer Sciences, gave an overview of the role of the Overall Parish Advisory Leadership Council and the mission of the LSU Cooperative Extension Service.

Crawford gave the background on the Extension Service in the United States, starting with the Morrill Act in 1862, which established land grant universities. She further listed the Hatch Act of 1887, which established agricultural experiment stations in connection with those land grant universities; the Morrill Act of 1890 which required each state to show that race was not an admissions criterion to the land grant universities, or else to designate a separate land-grant institution for person of color. She further listed the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, a federal law that established a system of cooperative extension services, connected to the land grant universities, in order to inform people about current developments in agriculture, home economics, and related subjects.

Crawford presented an organizational chart, starting with the USDA and delineating the place of the extension services. She also gave the purpose and the mission of the extension service and told the group that their office deals with educational programs in three major areas: agriculture and natural resources, families and youth.

Crawford pointed out that the purpose of the Advisory Leadership System is multi-faceted, and includes obtaining input from “stakeholders” in the parish, leadership development, and to create public awareness of the value of the Extension Service and its programs.

She noted that those selected to serve on the Advisory Council were chosen because of their interest in and knowledge of the community and its people, they are active in the community and they are willing to attend the programs.

ALC members are to serve as ambassadors between the Extension Service and the community and advisors to the Extension Service, letting the staff know what they are doing right and things they might change if not relevant.

Responsibilities of the Overall Concordia Parish Advisory Leadership Council:

- Represent their peers in the community
- Identify the needs in the community
- Evaluate needs and programs
- Provide program direction for Extension

Qualification of members:

- A sincere interest in the community
- Knowledge of local issues
- Have a rapport with local people
- Possess the ability to work within a group.

Glen Daniels

Daniels then presented an outline of the agricultural and natural resources programs that were presented in 2006 and noted the expectations for 2007. He stressed the importance of developing the bio-diesel and ethanol industries within our area.

Terri Crawford

Crawford noted the Extension’s accomplishments in Family & Consumer Sciences during 2006, adding that there was a major emphasis on diabetes and pre-diabetes education and screening, along with a program dealing with healthy snacking for children.

Shevawn James

4-H Agent James discussed the “Fibers & Food” focus of 4-H during the year, which allowed students to study the entire scientific process relating to those areas.

Joe Bairnsfather

4-H Agent Bairnsfather listed the essential elements of the parish 4-H program and pointed out that Character Counts education has been added. He outlined the wide variety of workshops, camps, livestock shows and other activities of the 4-H’ers in Concordia.

A new program, Shooting Sports is underway with seven volunteers trained to serve as instructors. The parish coordinator is Concordia Parish Sheriff Office Deputy George Loomis, and will begin in the spring of '07.

He stressed that volunteers play a vital role in 4-H.

Identifying Issues

Parker listed two major issues currently facing Concordians:

- 1) Act 12 and its ramifications (Act 12 deals with strict housing construction regulations)
- 2) Affordable housing.

Anders noted that he and others will be seeking a moratorium on Act 12 for the northern area of the state during the upcoming Legislative special session.

Adams stated that he feels the parish, state and nation are losing farmers at an alarming rate. He asked for possible ideas/programs to stem the tide. Brooking suggested contacting State Senator Noble Ellington regarding encouraging biodiesel production.

Stevens asked if there would be a possible avenue for developing a program to boost children's self-esteem and make them aware of their personal rights, especially the right not to be molested.

Wagoner asked if there might be ideas and programs developed to keep students interested in the valuable 4-H programs throughout junior high and high school.

The meeting concluded at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Stevens
Secretary