

Pickens County Extension Advisory Council
January 18, 2007 Meeting Minutes
12:00 Pizza Inn, Pickens

Staff in attendance: Brian Callahan, Judie Holt, Lou Robinson, Heather Repec, Howard Hiller, Carolyn Harris

Members in attendance: Mary A. Bagwell, Dennis Bauknight, Theron Crenshaw, Deb Edson, Moseley Hamilton, Dale Harward, R.D. Morrison, Ted Shehan, Bob Spalding, Renee Watson

Brian thanked everyone for coming and asked each staff and advisory member to introduce and tell a little bit about themselves. Each member was given 2 handouts - a list of current members and also a copy of a recent letter from John Kelly pertaining to this year's proposed budget cuts by the Governor.

PSA updates discussed:

- Brian Callahan announced that Greenville County will be hiring for a horticultural agent position. This agent will not be handling general horticulture questions, but rather doing programming for the public such as pruning workshops, etc.

- Lou Robinson gave a brief overview of the Vision 2020 Pickens County project she is currently working on. The county will be utilizing a consulting firm to help with planning and growth for the future. Renee Watson gave supplemental information on this topic, explaining that support for this project was needed and it will benefit all residents of the county.

-The aforementioned letter from John Kelly was reviewed in detail, going over several of the top proposed budget cuts. The biggest cut would be targeting 4-H programs which comes at a time when Pickens County Extension is currently trying to hire a 4-H agent. Brian and Lou will be coming up with a proposal to present to Pickens County to try to obtain partial funding for the 4-H position. Many other counties in the state have accepted an offer similar to this in order to obtain a 4-H agent. Clemson will be offering to pay 75% if the Pickens County will come up with 25%. This offer would likely change to a 50/50 match in the near future.

Deb Edson asked if the proposal would include showing Pickens County that other counties have followed suit in contributing towards the salary for a 4-H agent. Brian stated that he has been in touch with Kellye Rembert, who would be compiling the necessary data regarding all other counties with 4-H agents. Advisory committee members were asked if they would be willing to drum up support for this proposal and contact County Council members to push for it. The following is a list of each council member and the advisory member who will try to speak with them:

Randy Crenshaw (Theron Crenshaw), Tom Ponder (Bob Spalding), Jennifer Willis (Renee Watson)
Dr. London (Mary A. Bagwell), Neil Smith (Moseley Hamilton), Ben Trotter (Ted Shehan)

Mary Ann Bagwell suggested contacting Chris Heavner, Pastor at Lutheran Church in Clemson for help in supporting the 4-H program. R.D. Morrison stated that he has County Council members on the Pickens County Cattlemen's Association mailing list. He will also be attending an upcoming event where you can meet State Legislators. He plans to express his support for Clemson Extension at this time.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45p.m.