

Extension Advisory Council Meeting
March 31, 2009
Spartanburg Extension Office
12:00 Noon

Present: Peggy Taylor, James Anderson, Brandi Cooley-Easler, Joe Maple, Ron Kirby, Gerri Gilliam, Jes Sdao, Elise Gosnell, Elizabeth Hardee, Wayne West, Ed Davidson, David Parker, Sue Hovey, Andy Rollins, Kristen Welch, Brian Callahan, Matthew Burns, George Dickert, Ginger Bowen and Kim Dillard taking minutes.

Presiding: Tony Bell, Chairman

Tony Bell, chairman welcomed and thanked everyone for attending this meeting.

Andy Rollins gave thanks for the lunch that was being served.

The Advisory Committee Members and Clemson staff introduced themselves and stated their connection with Extension.

An Advisory Council Committee Guide was distributed to all new members. Tony briefly discussed the process of the committee and what they do. The rotation of members was also discussed.

Tony talked about the county budget. Six million has been cut and are now looking to see what Senate may do. The biggest expense is personnel. Request of county funds for George Dickert and program areas are in tack and looking good. No cuts from our request for the upcoming fiscal year are expected.

Tony, a member of the State Extension Advisory Committee updated us on where they are and what is going to happen with funding. This was a two day meeting. Members met with members of the State House.

- Possible changes with fertilizer tax
- Furlough issues

Brian Callahan, Field Operations gave an update on the Clemson Extension Budget.

- 21% cut so far this year
- What to do to absorb blow
 1. freeze 41 positions
 2. 5 day furlough, all employees
 3. cut operating funds 20%, every extension office
 4. cut travel funds 50%
 5. construction projects frozen across campus
 6. incentive program offered, 2 years or less, early retirement
- Senate, possible 6% to 8% cut

- Total cut – 30%

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Brian uncertain how budget will end.

- Fertilizer tax increase
- Meat inspection could be turned back over to Federal side instead of Clemson, money saved with no jobs lost

Brian stated agents need to look for ways to generate money and to continue doing programs out in the county.

Program needs: 4-H Recycling needed in Spartanburg, Alana Willingham won a state-wide award for her program in Cherokee County, Ginger will work with her to start program in Spartanburg.

Joe Maple volunteers in the extension office often and stated that the office is coming alive again with new and energetic staff.

Tony and Ginger, in behalf of the Spartanburg County Extension Advisory Council presented Rock Adams with a plaque for his support and service with Extension.

Highlights of Extension Programs:

Matthew Burns, area livestock

- Statewide programs
- Multi county meetings
- May 21, Clemson, “Get Back to the Roots” cattle meeting

Ginger Bowen, 4-H

- 21 to 23 clubs
- 2 - Pet Pal Clubs within schools
- Working with Parks & Rec on programs for youth
- 9 – Jump into Fitness Clubs
- Safety and Risk Watch programs

Kristen Welch, EFNEP

- Housed in Spartanburg, but works in 7 counties
- 2 NEA's teaching programs in Spartanburg at the Drug and Alcohol Agency
- 40th Anniversary of program, meeting to be held on Columbia in October
- Copies of the latest newsletter was distributed to advisory members

Andy Rollins, area commercial agent

- Peach project
- Variety trial, Cooley Farm
- Root rot experiment
- Insect work with peaches

George Dickert, general agriculture/horticulture/storm water

- River sweep project
- Storm water project
- Consumer questions, phone calls and walk-ins
- Work with master gardener volunteers 2 days a week at office, possibly to expand more days
- Horticultural program, consumer and commercial
- Master Naturalist program

Sue Hovey, ServSafe, restaurant food safety

- ServSafe manager training, Greenville county in April
- Food Lab/Clemson – testing food products for small companies
- Answer client questions when in office
- Offering a home canning program

David Parker, agriculture

- On-call/when needed in Spartanburg
- Continues staying in contact with agents
- Stated that it is a privilege to be working with everyone

Joe Maple, master gardener

- Working with Ron Kirby and George Dickert on a waste management program, educate individuals on the proper way to dispose of pesticide products, paints and etc.

Cory Tanner, Master Gardener Coordinator was absent due to death of grandfather. Peggy Taylor, master gardener board member, was asked to speak about the MG Program offered in Spartanburg. She stated it has been a smooth transition from working alone to working with Extension again.

Tony and Ginger will meet at a later date to discuss the next meeting date and topics. Notices will be mailed to all committee members.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.