

York County Clemson Extension Advisory Council
Minutes
January 12, 2009
12:00 Noon – 1:30 pm
120 North Congress Street

- Steve McNeely opened the meeting with prayer
- Steve McNeely called the meeting to order
- Minutes Correction: Bennish Brown was in attendance but not listed present
- Bennish Brown moved to accept minutes
- Minutes were approved with correction

Program Highlights

Margie

- Shared 2008 4H Program stats
- Kathryn Keller (former local intern) was selected to serve as an intern at 4H national council in Washington, D.C.
- 4H Sewing volunteers received a 1,000 grant for a sewing program
- Swine project kicked off January 8 – 70 youth registered
- New robotics club has started
- New leadership class with Ben Boyles will begin January 27.

Paul

- 28 Master Gardener Graduates
- All graduates have been heavily involved (garden tool shed, planters, landscaping)
- 2008 MG Stats: 6500 hours of volunteer time, 7900 contacts, drove 31,918 miles, 71 hours on mass media
- Pesticide license class (heavy demand)
- First Friday's in the Garden (Glencairn Gardens) Partnership with Rock Hill PRT, first Friday of every month to present garden information to the general public (seminar, demo, etc.) as many as 45 people there
- Will be taking web training in the near future to enhance local Horticulture web presence
- Nursery association trade show
- Feb. 21 MG annual symposium at the Baxter Hood Center (\$45.00 includes lunch) can go online www.mastergardnerofyorkcounty.org to print registration form
- Plant ID Training coming for the commercial industry

- Glencairn Gardens will have a celebration in May for the new additions to garden

Angela

- Working with the York County Alliance for Healthy Kids and Communities (childhood obesity) to align with the states "Eat Smart Move More SC" program. Trying to get related PSAs on local radio/TV.
- University just put a grant in for Indian Health Services for the Catawba Indian Nation
- Bill Henson offered assistance in publicizing "Eat Smart Move More"
- Bennish Brown recommended leveraging a theme month such as "National Nutrition Month" in March
- Bill Henson recommended going back to the city to request time on local public access channels
- Bennish Brown said there was an effort in Rock Hill called "Good for the Children." It is a subcommittee of City commission on children and youth.
- Sally Adams recommended targeting Beekeepers and other local producers for the "Eat Smart Move More" initiative.

Joe

- Equine program Fall 2008 - 30 people involved 6 different sections
 - Very successful with demand for the Spring
- Pasture Management – weed control
- Working with Cory Heaton re: pond management
- Will be working with row crop producers in the coming months

Cory

- Pond Management Workshop coming soon
- Brush management/Beaver removal
- Will take Certified Crop Adviser exam in February
- Coming Program: Backyard wildlife habitat class – 3 day course starting Feb. 9 1-3 pm Feb 16, Feb 23, \$100.00
 - 2 Signed up as of now (8-9 in Lancaster)

Ben

- York County Youth in Action – Youth Leadership Program for Middle School Students starts January 27.
- Working with the Town of Fort Mill to re-develop a local downtown movie theater. Will be helping with grant assistance.
- Working on writing a grant for an Agritourism Development School
- Value Added Producer Grant application period opens soon.

Extension Budget Status

- 20% cut (6 Million) to PSA in 2008.

Margie Sippel, Extension Agent

- Task Force has been created to look at budget issues – Ben Boyles is a member.
- 20% cut in operations and 50% cut in travel
- Asked for \$35,000 from County last year
- Recommendations were made to cut back on heat and other non-necessary expenses by seeking volunteers when able.

Drop in for Elected Officials

- Margie notified the council that the drop-in for elected officials was canceled due to budget constraints. Steve McNeely shared that he would be willing to meet one-on-one with our local elected officials and share with them his support of our organization.

New Members and Chairman - Fall of 2008

- Steve McNeely asked the council to begin thinking about potential new members.

Program Development

Daniel Bozard

- Daniel Bozard presented to the council on the importance of private giving to Extension. He shared with the council different ways to give and asked the council to be advocates for Extension fund raising.

Other Business

- Bennish Brown made the council aware of the Agritourism Center Feasibility Study Presentation to County Council on January 21 at 6:30.

Next meeting plans and date

- The next meeting will be Monday, May 11 at 12:00 at the York Office.

Adjourn

- Steve McNeely adjourned the meeting.

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