

Date: January 16, 2008

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: MSU Extension Bay County, Third Floor, Large Conference Room

Members Present:

Mary Jo Brandt

Lyle LeCronier

Doug Rise

Philip Engelhardt

Bill Palmer

Barb Wishowski

Marybeth Laisure

Members Excused:

Joyce Gavord

George Heron

Others Present:

Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant

Jodi Schulz, 4H & Youth Development Extension Educator

Howard Wetters, County Extension Director

INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Doug Rise, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Minutes of the November 14, 2007, meeting were reviewed and approved. There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Under old business, with nominations closed for the 2008 officers, elections were held for the positions of chair (Doug Rise), vice chair (Marybeth Laisure), and secretary (Phil Engelhardt). A vote was taken for the entire nominated slate of officers and all were unanimously elected.

Also under old business, Mr. Wetters stated that interviews are scheduled in February for the vacant ANR Extension educator position. Mr. Wetters asked for two members to sit on the interview committee: Mary Jo Brandt and Phil Engelhardt positively responded. He also invited all Extension Council members to participate in the open presentation portion of the interview process. Mr. Wetters described the MSU Extension interview process for hiring Extension educators. A notice would be sent out to Extension Council with the dates and times of the interview.

The 2008 MSU Extension Bay County programs presentation schedule was handed out to those present.

Jodi Schulz, 4-H Youth and Development Extension educator, addressed Council for a PowerPoint presentation on traditional and non-traditional 4-H programming in Bay County. Ms. Schulz introduced Council to the new audio/visual equipment and set up in our large conference room and asked for feed back on its performance

during tonight's presentation.

Highlights of the presentation were relationships and partnerships with community organizations, youth organizations, and the local school systems. A focus was made to the historical partnership with the Bay County Fair Board, with emphasis on the current relationship in helping Fair Board create policies and draft an operations manual, which includes interviewing and managing volunteers.

MSU Extension's revised Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) was also presented to Extension Council. Ms. Schulz was part of a state-wide review committee that brought MSU Extension's VSP policy up-to-date. VSP is used for all MSU Extension volunteers; and Mr. Wetters has advised our local CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) group to adopt the VSP model for their volunteer base. Mr. Wetters congratulated Ms. Schulz on her leadership in this collaboration with the Bay County Fair Board. The Bay County Fair Board is one of the first in the state to move toward adopting an intensive, modern model in the volunteer selection process. Ms. Mary Jo Brandt commented that this policy makes it safer for our kids.

Program area activities were presented to Council. Mr. Wetters provided Council with an update on two grant opportunities for MSU Extension in the 2007-2008 program year. A "teen wraparound service" proposal is being submitted to the Children's Trust Fund/Dept. of Human Services for additional grant funds to provide an intense assessment and referral service to teen moms (parents). The ability to provide respite care services will also be a part of this proposal. The other grant proposal is the American Dream Initiative, through the local United Way agency. This one-time grant will focus on parenting and nutrition education and financial counseling to particular at-risk families in Bay County. This grant will allow MSU Extension to offer additional incentives to families, which may expand educational programs currently offered.

Some discussion on how MSU Extension receives referrals through community hospitals, schools, and the general public were discussed.

Ms. Ann Arnold, Extension educator, was not able to attend tonight's meeting due to a previously scheduled program event. Mr. Wetters offered information on a new data base MSU Extension Bay County is developing to better serve the day care provider clients in the four counties of responsibility (Bay, Midland, Isabella, and Gratiot) under the Better Kid Care program. The database will serve as an inventory system for educational materials and allow staff to keep up with professional development CEUs (continuing education units). This database model may become a model for the rest of the state.

Ms. Jodi Schulz addressed current programming under 4-H and youth development with an update to the 4-H Winter Workshop, youth and leader awards banquet. Ms. Schulz talked about the types of awards and accolades that 4-Hers and leaders can

expect at this year's banquet. Handbills were provided on the upcoming 4-H Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser this Thursday, January 18. A rabbit and cavy (guinea pigs) show is planned for March 29. It is the first of its type offered by 4-H in Bay County. An update was also provided on non-traditional 4-H programming currently being offered at Hughes Elementary and the Boys & Girls Club in Bay City on rocketry. Kids at the Pinconning site of the Boys & Girls Club looked at art from the children of China as part of an art exchange program. An educational opportunity is being explored at MacGregor Elementary by way of a children's reading garden.

Mr. Wetters stated that the ANR program activities will be limited to two pesticide applicator review programs and one dry bean day event, due to staffing levels. Mr. Lyle LeCronier asked about the status of Bay County's plot results FY 2007. Mr. Wetters replied that he made a decision not to use Bay's data, as it is not reliable due to equipment failure and other factors. A similar county to Bay, Tuscola County's data is available to download off the MSU Extension Bay County Website.

Ms. Jan Rise could not attend tonight due to another community commitment. Mr. Doug Rise offered that she is excited about the new Master Gardener class which started Tuesday, January 15, 2008. Some discussion centered around the progress of the farmers' market work group. A site location was identified in the parking lot area next to Jennison Place on Bay City's eastside. Mr. Wetters said MSU Extension Bay County would be applying for a USDA grant, relative to farm markets, which could help increase senior citizen's consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Under Community and Economic Development, Mr. Wetters said that Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training continues in the 13 county region.

Handouts provided were:

- 2008 Extension Council meeting dates schedule
- Updated MSU Extension Bay County staff list
- Bay County Executive Report for the 2007 4th quarter

Mr. Lyle LeCronier requested an Extension Council notebook replacement.

The next Extension Council meeting is scheduled for March 19. Mr. Rise adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN

- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve the November 16, 2007, meeting minutes.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to unanimously approve the slated 2008 officer positions.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

Prepared by J. Delestowicz