

**Date:** March 21, 2007

**Time:** 5:20 p.m.

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

**Members Present:**

Mary Jo Brandt	Robert Kernstock	Elaine Sobieray
Philip Engelhardt	Lyle LeCronier	
George Heron	Marybeth Laisure	

**Members Excused:**

Doug Rise	Barb Wishowski	Ray VanDriessche
-----------	----------------	------------------

**Others Present:**

Ann Arnold, FCS Extension Educator  
Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant  
Chris Reisinger, ANR Extension Educator  
Jan Rise, Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator  
Jodi Schulz, 4H & Youth Development Extension Educator  
Howard Wetters, County Extension Director

**INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS**

As Doug Rise, chair, was excused from the meeting, Howard Wetters, CED, started the meeting at 5:20 p.m. Mary Jo Brandt, this year's 4-H Advisory Board president was introduced to the membership. Ms. Brandt replaces last year's president Chris Wazny on this advisory board, per their by-laws. Mr. Wetters suggested that this board amend their by-laws to included that all sitting 4-H advisory board presidents be automatically part of the Extension Council.

Minutes of the January 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved. No new discussion items were added to the agenda.

Under old business, discussion centered around looking for persons to fill three remaining vacant Council seats. Mr. Wetters asked for suggestions from members present, and it was agreed to have staff continue to find prospective candidates. Offering a "lifetime" membership (to Lyle LeCronier), which was tabled since January, was discussed. After review of the current bylaws, Council felt there was a place for one such position. A motion was supported to have Mr. Wetters draft language for consideration at the next meeting to include one lifetime member position to sit on Council.

Under new business, the meeting was turned over to Chris Reisinger, ANR Extension educator, gave a presentation on Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) programming in Bay County. The focus of the presentation was on several topics,

which are in keeping with Extension Council's goal of adding value added ventures for local farmers identified through the issues setting process in 2006. ANR is seeking participation for demonstration plots for a variety of soybeans that produces Linolenic oil. Premiums are associated with these new processes. Also, a study group has been put together to look at developing a revised/new downtown farmers' market by 2008. ANR is also working with the Bay County government to offer its employees a fresh produce pick up program, as part of its healthy lifestyle initiative for employees. This pilot program would offer local growers a new, centralized market venue. Order would be placed over the Internet. If successful, growers could offer the same program to other employers in Bay County. Acknowledgments were given to Mr. Reisinger for his innovative ideas and expanded programming efforts.

Mr. Wetters provided attending Council members the state-wide compilation of "Strengthening Michigan Counties," the final result of the 2006 issues identification process. Mr. George Heron moved to have Mr. Wetters present the report to the Board of Commissioners and the county executive in an effort to create a dialog on those local emerging issues presented in the publication. The motion passed. Mr. Wetters also spoke about our state's projected budget shortfalls, how it may affect our local programs, and how Bay County has moved to solve the effects of losing revenue cost sharing.

It was moved by Mr. Lyle LeCronier to have the 4-H Advisory Council president be a standing appointment to the Bay County Extension Council. The motion passed. The Extension educators reported to Council on activities in their program areas. Ms. Schulz shared that Bay County has allowed MSU Extension to utilize the emergency services trailer for fair this year, and provided Council with an update on other activities planned by the MSU Extension office and the 4-H program area. Ms. Schulz invited Council on a tour through fair after their traditional meeting on livestock auction night. It was moved by Mr. Philip Engelhardt to hold an Extension Council meeting on Thursday, August 9, 2007, at 5:15 p.m., the same night of the 4-H livestock auction, and then tour the 4-H fair exhibits. The motion passed.

Mr. Wetters gave Council an update on the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) activities, redistricting changes, and grant efforts. MSU Extension Bay County will have an emergency preparedness provisions display at fair, which would show what supplies people should have on hand in case of an emergency.

Ms. Ann Arnold talked about Family Consumer Sciences (FCS) programming. The new breastfeeding club is going well and is growing, too. Ms. Arnold passed out information on the upcoming community baby shower to be held in April. CPR training is now being provided by MSU Extension Bay County at a nominal cost of \$15. Mr. Wetters gave Ms. Arnold congratulations on how well that programming contact benchmarks have already been met this year in the areas of the Breastfeeding Initiative (BFI), Family Nutrition Program (FNP), Better Kid Care (BKC), and Building Strong Families (BSF). Programs run from October through September.

Ms. Jodi Schulz gave a report on activities under 4-H and youth development. A new archery club has formed, and two new leaders have been oriented. Both the 4-H youth awards and leader banquets went well this year. This year's Friends of 4-H award was shared by both Michigan Brand Meats and Rosie's Pies. Ms. Carol Wazny was named leader of the year. Ms. Wazny's club is 4-H Country Cousins, Critters, and Kids. The Livestock Council's spaghetti dinner fundraiser made over fifteen hundred dollars to go toward barn improvements. Forty youth participated in a winter workshop sponsored by the 4-H Advisory Council. 4-H Council expects to make this an annual event due to the great turnout. 4-H staff is still working at all three Boys and Girl's Club sites. Ag Olympics, a new youth event, is planned for this summer. Fair is always a focus in 4-H, and the new still project superintendent is Patti Dubay. Mr. Wetters gave Ms. Schulz kudos for being able to advance communication with our 4-Hers by broadening the use of MSU Extension Bay County's 4-H Webpage.

Mr. Chris Reisinger shared that a MEAPS, Phase I, groundwater environmental compliance volunteer program is being planned; four MDA continuing education units may be granted for this educational program.

Ms. Jan Rise offered that the Master Gardener program worked with 4-H and FNP staff at the winter workshop and Bay City School System's science fair, providing programming on herbs and growing vegetables, respectively. The Master Gardener Volunteer Program recognition banquet is scheduled for April 17, to coincide with National Volunteer Week. Several trainees will receive their Master Gardener certifications and some will receive an advanced certification. Ms. Rise shared an update on several new and continuing volunteer projects for 2007. Fifty-six Master Gardener volunteers provided 1,074 hours of service in Bay County in 2006. An expansion of the Master Gardener Webpage and a quarterly horticulture newsletter is planned in 2007.

Mr. Wetters will be attending several senior- and youth-based community collaborative meetings in the next few weeks to get feedback on what additional role Extension can have in helping them develop their group. His focus is also on working toward an elder friendly community designation for Bay County. Mr. Heron asked if contact could be made with each collaborative council to find out what their group's priorities and goals are, to collect those issues and bring them back to Council, then use MSU and MSU Extension resources to help with problem identification and resolution.

Mr. Wetters adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

## **ACTION TAKEN**

- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve the January 17, 2007, meeting minutes.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to draft language that allows (1) lifetime membership to Council.
- It was moved, supported, and carried for the Bay County Extension director to present the “Strengthening Michigan’s Economy,” issues identification report to the Bay County Board of Commissioners.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to amend the Extension Council bylaws to include the 4-H Advisory Council president sit on Extension Council.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to hold a brief Extension Council business meeting at the Bay County Fair and Youth Exposition on Thursday, August 9, 2007, 5:15 p.m., at the Bay County Fairgrounds.

**WHAT’S NEXT AND FOLLOW UP**

- Bylaws language review for adding lifetime membership and standing appointment for 4-H council presidents.

Prepared by J. Delestowicz