

Date: September 20, 2006

Time: 5:15 p.m.

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

Members Present:

Philip Engelhardt

George Heron

Marybeth Laisure

Lyle LeCronier

Michelle Lesniak

Douglas Rise

Ray VanDreissche

Members Excused:

Patrick Beson

Joyce Gavord

Kari Gulvas

Jeff Histed

Bill Palmer

Sara Marks

Delicia Newman

Elaine Sobieray

Chris Wazny

Barb Wishowski

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

Chair Doug Rise opened the Extension Council meeting at 5:25 p.m. Minutes from the May 17, 2006, meeting were reviewed and approved. Two more Extension Council resignations were announced: Kari Gulvas (term expires December 2006) and Delicia Newman (term expires December 2007). Howard Wetters, CED, asked Council members to offer candidate names and/or suggestions for filling the vacancies. Mr. Wetters also discussed demographics relative to multiculturalism in Bay County. The goal is to keep as much diversity, multiculturalism, and life-experienced backgrounds as possible in persons serving on Extension Council.

Mr. Rise stated there was no old business on the agenda. Fair and goal setting results will be discussed under new business during the Extension educator's program area report. Mr. Wetters apologized for missing Council at the Livestock auction; he was ill. He hoped that those who attended had an enjoyable experience.

The Extension educators reported to Council on activities in their program areas. Under Family Consumer Sciences, Ms. Ann Arnold, stated 29 persons participated in the annual Breastfeeding Walk held in conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week this August at the Bay County Community Center. This was the largest public turnout to date. Also in August, another breastfeeding community collaboration, setting up the

“Rock ‘n Rest” tent went successfully during the City of Bay City’s tall ships event. Under nutrition education, FNP, the Master Gardener volunteer program, and ANR are working with eight families participating in the MSUE/Saginaw Bay WIN family nutrition and gardening grant. Nutrition education programs were held twice at the Bay County Library, which 35 kids participated in, and four were held at local senior citizen centers. Parenting classes continue in the second year with new Parmeter House clients. Better Kid Care satellite programs continue in Bay County, with a Relative Care class held in Midland County. This was in cooperation with MSU Extension-Midland County. CPR recertification classes were held for active day care providers. Mr. Wetters noted that Ann Arnold is taking leadership in how the BKC program is being delivered in “the field,” per the request of David Guikema, MSU Extension central region director.

Chair Rise passed out an Extension Council member information list and asked for updates.

Ms. Jodi Schulz gave a report on activities under 4-H and youth development. Worked with the community on United Way’s Day of Caring event for sixth graders at Handy Middle School. PEP (Proud Equestrian Program) started this September, and runs for eight weeks. Another year that participation is at its capacity. New officers have been elected for the 4H advisory clubs. In the process of looking for new small animal superintendents for 2007. Delecia (Newman) is doing well, and heading to her grandparents’ ranch out West in two weeks. Leader training is held annually each October to bring new and returning leaders up-to-date on both county and campus’ policies. There was a brief discussion on problems and successes in working collaboratively with new United Way director.

Regarding the United Way Day of Caring, Mr. Wetters passed around some props used in the programs MSU Extension presented on fat and sugar content in foods and smoking. A few Council members, who have children at Handy, talked about how well received the presentations were first hand.

Ms. Schulz thanked Doug and Jan Rise for taking, and skillfully managing, the buyer and animal photos taken at this year’s 4-H livestock auction. She also thanked all the buyers, like Lyle LeCronier, that continue to support the 4-Hers at fair. Some discussion centered around improvements made to the barns, the increase in the length of time auction takes each year, and the new promo display for fair.

Ms. Schulz invited Council to attend the upcoming 4-H Soup Supper fundraiser on October 7 (handout provided). 4-H participation fees are being implemented in Michigan. The cost will be \$10. Campus has established guidelines on how the funds can and will be utilized, i.e., for programming costs only (no wages). Ms. Schulz is not sure how her 4-H families will receive this yet, but has already put a committee together to provide her feedback on how Bay might implement.

Mr. Chris Reisinger, ANR Extension educator, presented a preliminary schedule for ANR programming in 2007. Mr. Reisinger also talked about how he is getting around to meet local agriculture producers, not only to introduce himself but to get their ideas on emerging issues in the area. Some discussion centered around how local corn growers feel about ethanol production. Mr. Reisinger talked about the educational programming and conferences he has and will be attending. Revitalizing a farmers' market is still on his agenda, and he is looking at joining a statewide market team. Council showed collective interest on this issue. Many Bay farmers are prospering at the Saginaw County farmers' market. Some discussion was on where an alternative location site might be, instead of the current market location. Mr. Reisinger excused himself at 6 p.m. to attend an evening class.

Ms. Jan Rise, Master Gardener volunteer coordinator, gave an update on her program area. With the season winding down on projects, most fall clean up is very much weather dependent. Ms. Rise offered brochures and applications to the next Master Gardener class, which starts January 16, 2007. Mr. Wetters thanked Jan for organizing the MSU Extension booth at fair this year, which, he felt, was very well received by the public. This fall the Master Gardeners will again set up tables at both Sage and Auburn library branches to answer the public's horticulture questions. Ms. Rise is working with Jodi Schulz to create an entomology program for a 2007 science fair for middle school students.

Mr. Wetters shared that another Citizen Planner event will be scheduled in the spring of 2007 after updates are made to the curriculum, due to the recent actions of the state legislature in changing the planning and zoning acts. MSU Extension continues to collaborate with the local emergency service providers in conjunction with CERT training and other emergency event planning procedures. How CERT volunteer teams are being established and coordinated in our community was discussed.

Mr. Wetters spoke about where MSU Extension Bay County is in meeting the goals identified during the issues ID process held this winter and how staff is moving toward action. Establishing a directional leadership program and addressing obesity/health education issues are ongoing. Revitalizing the local farmers' market, increase marketing of MSU Extension programs, and collaborating with local youth groups has already begun. Mr. Wetters will keep Council informed on our continuing progress.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN

- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve the May 17, 2006, meeting minutes.

- 2007 meeting dates:

January 17

March 21

May 16

August (fair week)

September 19

November 14

- It was moved, supported, and carried to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

WHAT'S NEXT AND FOLLOW UP

- 2007 officer nominations and elections
- Council reappointments

Prepared by J. Delestowicz