

Date: November 15, 2006

Time: 5:15 p.m.

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

Members Present:

Philip Engelhardt

Marybeth Laisure

Douglas Rise

George Heron

Lyle LeCronier

Elaine Sobieray

Robert Kernstock

Sara Marks

Barb Wishowski

Members Excused:

Joyce Gavord

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 5:20 p.m. Minutes from the September 9, 2006, meeting were reviewed and approved. Under old business, Council has three seats vacant due to resignations or not renewing a term. Howard Wetters asked that if Council members knew of anyone that would be interested in joining, let him know. Some discussion centered on the need for diversity in life experiences for a prospective candidate when choosing a Council member. Mr. Wetters will bring prospective candidates for Council's review at the January meeting.

Also under old business, members present whose term expires December 2006 all accepted another three year term on Council: Douglas Rise, Philip Engelhardt, Joyce Gavord, Lyle LeCronier, George Heron. Those members whose term expires December 2006 that were not present will be contacted by Mr. Wetters: Ray VanDriessche, Patrick Beson, Steve Rajewski.

It was offered to extend a lifetime membership to Lyle LeCronier. Mr. LeCronier has been a Council member since 1982. It was decided to review the by-laws under the membership section to consider this at the next meeting.

Under new business, at 5:30 p.m. the meeting was turned over to Howard Wetters to take nominations for 2007 officers. Mr. Douglas Rise and Mr. Philip Engelhardt accepted the position of chair and secretary, respectively, with no other nominations

offered. Mr. Wetters said he would contact Mr. VanDreissche on accepting his nomination for vice chair. Extension Council voted to re-elect Mr. Rise, Mr. VanDreissche, and Dr. Engelhardt to the positions of chair, vice chair, and secretary, respectively. The election of Mr. VanDreissche is valid upon his acceptance of the position.

2007 meeting date cards were passed out to Council members.

Mr. Wetters provided an update on staffing and grants. For the 75 percent FTE breastfeeding peer counselor vacancy, the MSU Extension Bay County office is accepting applications. Mr. Wetters indicated that the previous peer counselor has gone from an extended leave of absence to a termination status. He looks to hire the new peer counselor (program associate) before the end of the year. The Parent Connect program ended September 2006, due to the Bay Arenac ISD not being able to secure the grant funding. Therefore, unfortunately, three part-time MSU Extension program associate positions (family service workers) could not be renewed and were terminated. The Parent Connect program provided participant families with referral services at several local at-risk schools in Bay and Arenac counties. BAISD will continue to provide similar services through other grant funding, Parent Involvement Enrichment (PIE) Center. Mr. Wetters also shared that under the Successful Futures program, funded in part by the Children's Trust Fund, an opportunity has come available to offer a respite care program. It would be a small, one-time grant increase for this program year. Respite care, in this instance, would be providing day care on an emergency basis for Successful Futures clients.

Some discussion centered on the recent ballot proposals results from the November election and how that would affect Michigan State University. Mr. Wetters offered that it was too soon to tell how policy or funding would change.

The Extension educators reported to Council on activities in their program areas. Mr. Chris Reisinger, ANR Extension educator, presented the 2007 ANR programming schedule (handout) and gave updates on event details. Mr. Reisinger reviewed results on the 2007 variety seed plot results for Arenac and Bay (handout). Mr. Wetters gave an update on Bay Futures, who is working with MSU Extension on new agri-business opportunities. There was discussion on alternative fuels, supporting crops, and putting a board together to look at those issues. MSU Extension is working with local DDAs to put together a downtown market event in the spring. Mr. Reisinger excused himself at 6 p.m. to attend class.

Ms. Jan Rise talked about the collaboration with the Master Gardener program and 4-H on the science fair planned in March 2007 sponsored by the school system. Last year there were over eight hundred participants. A new Master Gardener training session is scheduled to start January 16, 2007.

Ms. Jodi Schulz gave a report on activities under 4-H and youth development. A flyer on the upcoming 4-H Horse Council wreath sale fundraiser was shared. Ms. Schulz talked about the upcoming annual 4-H leader training sessions. This mandatory training not only offers updates to leaders on MSU Extension policies and procedures, but provides useful tips and tools to run their own 4-H club. Ms. Schulz showed Council a small community service project she worked on with the BAISD agri-science class. This afternoon, a mini pumpkin gourd vase filled with mums.

4-H officer training for all three 4-H councils is ongoing. Ms. Schulz gave an update to Council on each 4-H council activities: advisory, livestock, and horse. Ms. Schulz concluded with 4-H staff's activities with local community organizations, like the Boys & Girls Club, BAISD, and various elementary schools where MSU Extension is looking at creating and delivering nutrition and fitness programs. She also provided dates on the annual 4-H award banquets, Leadermete, the spaghetti dinner fundraiser, and ski day.

Under Family Consumer Sciences, Mr. Wetters gave the update for Ms. Ann Arnold, who was away at a conference. The 2006-2007 Better Kid Care session scheduled was passed out. Project FRESH ended in November with good coupon redemption rates seen. Other programs, like Building Strong Families and Family Nutrition Program are gearing up for the new year, showing good contact numbers for 2006.

Under Community and Economic Development, Mr. Wetters offered that 1,300 MSU Extension informational brochures detailing the 2006 ballot initiatives were sent out to the community prior to the election. The information was also available on-line. A schedule for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteer training, both current and new, was discussed. Volunteer organization and management is being developed. There was discussion on marketing our area as an elder friendly community.

Mr. Wetters passed out green canvas tote bags to each Council member present. The tote bags have the Successful Futures program logo and 800 number on one side and all the MSU Extension FCS logos on the other side to promote MSU Extension Bay County programs. This was a direct result of Council's recommendation to find new ways to promote and market programs. Ms. Schulz handed out key rings, a promotional item given to 4-H leaders at leader training.

Chair Rise wished all a happy holiday!

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN

- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve the September 20, 2006, meeting minutes.
- It was moved, supported, and carried unanimously to re-elect Douglas Rise chair of the Bay County Extension Council.
- It was moved, supported, and carried unanimously to re-elect Ray VanDreissche vice chair of the Bay County Extension Council.
- It was moved, supported, and carried unanimously to re-elect Philip Engelhardt secretary of the Bay County Extension Council.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

WHAT'S NEXT AND FOLLOW UP

- Review by-laws: Lyle LeCronier as a life-time member or member-at-large
- Council member reappointments and new member appointments

Prepared by J. Delestowicz