

**Date:** November 18, 2009

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

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

**Member(s) Present:**

George Heron

Lyle LeCronier

Doug Rise

Marybeth Laisure

Bill Palmer

Barb Wishowski

**Member(s) Excused:**

Mary Jo Brandt

Philip Englehardt

Patti Dubay

Sara Marks

**Others Present:**

Ann Arnold, FCS Extension Educator

Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant

Jan Rise, Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator

Jodi Schulz, 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator

**INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Doug Rise called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. Chair Rise stated that since the September 2009 meeting did not have a quorum, some old business items, like May's meeting minutes, still need to be approved.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the May and September 2009 meetings were approved without corrections.

**Additions to the Agenda:** The second and third quarter report from the Bay County executive were handed out to those members present. Mr. George Heron would like to see a report that showed impacts to our clients/community relative to the programming we provide to better utilize this advisory council's expertise. Some discussion focused on how the Board's comments do impact the direction that staff take in creating and delivering programming within the community.

**Old Business:**

With no other old business to come before the members, Mr. Rise moved on to the next agenda item, Council member reappointments.

**New Business:**

Members whose term expires at the end of December are Dr. Philip Engelhardt, Joyce Gavord, George Heron, Douglas Rise, and Sara Marks. Dr. Engelhardt was

excused from tonight's meeting, but expressed the wish to continue on Extension Council. Mr. Heron and Mr. Rise, who were present, also expressed their wish to continue on Extension Council. There was no response from Joyce Gavord or Sara Marks as of this meeting date.

Mr. Rise then opened the floor to accept nominations for the 2010 Extension Council officers. It was moved, supported, and carried to nominate the entire slate of 2009 officers, Douglas Rise, chair; Marybeth Laisure, vice chair; Philip Engelhardt, secretary. Elections will be held at the January 2010 meeting.

The 2010 meeting schedule was discussed. Council accepted the meeting schedule, with only the comment that they would like to discuss at the next meeting changing the meeting date in March (17).

The restructuring of MSU Extension was discussed by way of viewing Dr. Tom Coon's November 5, 2009, PowerPoint address to MSU Extension staff. Ms. Jodi Schulz discussed how Dr. Coon and MSU Extension administrative staff held "town hall" style meetings, whereby input and feedback was collected from campus and field staff. Because of this and other considerations, like state budget funding, MSU Extension administration was able to form the basis for the four new institutes outlined in his address.

After viewing the presentation, Ms. Schulz fielded questions. Total organization brainstorming sessions are being attended right now by MSU Extension staff across the state. She provided a timeline of changes outlined in Dr. Coon's presentation, and assured Council that MSU Extension - Bay County is going forward with local programming efforts in our community as the organization moves forward with restructuring.

**Program Area Reports:**

Ann Arnold, Extension educator, reported that Susan Kukla, temporary program associate, ended her position under the Better Kid Care grant September 30. This was due to the grant funds ending, as discussed at previous meetings. The local ECIC (Early Childhood Investment Corporation) will administer funding. At this time there is limited educational programming available for child care providers in our area. MSU Extension - Bay County still offers CPR and first aid training at a low cost.

MSU Extension - Bay County is beginning its partnership with the Bay County Health Department, working with the local Red Cross staff, to bring good hygiene practices and flu education to local school children under the H1N1 school outreach project. The Bay County Health Dept. has approved funds to cover staff time and program materials costs. The partnership will run till mid-winter of 2010. Departmentally, SNAP-Ed, 4-H, and support staff are all involved in delivering this programming.

Ms. Arnold continues to use Building Strong Families curriculum to bring parenting education to DHS (Department of Human Services) clients referred to her through the Strong Families, Safe Children grant. Project FRESH, Senior Project FRESH, and the Healthy Toddlers Research project have all wound down or ended for the year. These three programs have brought thousands of dollars back into the community in 2009 in the form of coupons for fresh Michigan grown produce and incentives under the research project. The Healthy Toddlers Research project will issue it's findings in mid-2010.

Ms. Jodi Schulz gave an update on 4-H events. An opportunity for 4-H youth volunteers to work on the breastfeeding-friendly diaper bay project will coincide with youth archery events. While youth practice on the range, others will be able to construct diaper bags at the same site. This dual-event style is a cool collaboration, and will enable youth to have more opportunities to meet their community service obligations for fair. The 4-H Horse Advisory Council's wreath fundraiser is winding down. There are still a few wreaths available to purchase tonight; the cost is \$20. Mandatory 4-H leader training is now on going, with the last training held this month. Ms. Schulz offered information on the 4-H Day at the Breslin this January 9. This is a great opportunity to support the Spartan women's basketball team. Tickets are available tonight. The 4-H Advisory Council is sponsoring another Winter Workshop in January. This workshop is open to the public. Six different project areas are given for the low cost of \$10.

Educational youth programming is still going strong at the Boys & Girls club's, and 4-H staff is back at the Bay County Juvenile Home. The focus at the Juvenile Home is budgeting and finance skill building.

Ms. Schulz gave a brief update on ANR programming: pesticide training for applicator's licensing is scheduled in January and March. There was brief discussion on MDA's recent office closures. Ms. Schulz offered that Mr. Howard Wetters is looking at collaborating with MDA by offering our computer lab and/or office space for applicators to test. Ms. Barb Wishowski noted that the Midland Farm Bureau office could also be considered for a testing site.

Ms. Jan Rise passed out a flyer to advertise the upcoming winter 2010 Master Gardener class series scheduled. Ms. Rise has had some responses already and hopes to fill the class up this year. Twelve students are the minimum needed to put on a class series. The new class will be offered on Wednesdays for 12 weeks, running from January to April 2010. Master Gardener projects are winding down for the season. The Bay Area Master Gardener Association is looking to focus on new programs at their next meeting in January.

Ms. Rise reported that the Downtown Bay City Farmer's Market had a great season, with more EBT/food stamp usage than the previous year. She will be attend a food expo in December on campus. One of the sessions discusses food stamp assistance - she looks forward to learning more about this area. The Saturday market day, new in 2009, did not go well. Some reasons were that the market

needs to grow (have a greater presence) before a Saturday market can take off. Senior Project FRESH usage at market looks good, with local dollars supporting match in 2010; but unknown into the future. Will have to wait and see.

Ms. Jodi Schulz gave a brief update on Community and Economic Development programming: Mr. Wetters is keeping up on a grant with wind energy.

Ms. Schulz and Ms. Ann Arnold gave kudos to Mr. Howard Wetters, as county Extension director his leadership during these difficult times relative to MSU Extension's restructuring has been appreciated.

Mr. Doug Rise also recognized Mr. Wetter's technology support (Turning Point voting system) at the mayor's meeting he attended today - great partnership within our community.

Mr. George Heron shared an invitation for the upcoming Downtown Bay City Gallery Walk where the Golden Gallery, "the view through OUR lens," would be on exhibit December 3.

With no other items to come before the Council, it was moved, supported, and carried to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

### **ACTION TAKEN**

- Moved, supported, and carried to approve the May 2009 and September 2009 meeting minutes.
- Moved, supported, and carried unanimously to nominate the 2009 Extension Council officers of Douglas Rise, chair; Marybeth Laisure, vice chair; and Philip Engelhardt, secretary, to the 2010 term.
- Moved, supported, and carried to close nominations for 2010 Extension Council officers.
- Moved, supported, and carried to adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

### **FOLLOW UP NEEDED**

- Elections of 2010 officer nominees: Douglas Rise, chair; Marybeth Laisure, vice chair; Philip Engelhardt, secretary
- Discuss rescheduling the March 17, 2010, meeting.

Prepared by J. Delestowicz