Lee County Advisory Meeting  
January 19, 2012  

Members present: Avron Upchurch, Jane Barringer, Wayne Watson, Reuhl Dabolt, Brenda Willett, Sylvia Churchwell, Nancy Gust, Frank Thompson, Teri Spivey, Wesley Faw, Jim Foster, John Cameron, Dale Hulsey  

Staff present: Susan Condlin, Seth Holt, Bill Stone, Brenda Larson, and Rhonda Gaster  

Avron Upchurch opened the meeting and welcomed the committee members.  

Minutes: The October minutes were posted to the web today and copies were distributed to members. Avron asked the members to take a moment to read over. There were no additions or changes to the minutes. They will be approved by general consent.  

Treasurer’s Report: The balance in the NCCE, Lee County account is $11,497.17. Income = $2,097.61, Expenses = $2,246.84 Nancy Gust made a motion to accept the fund balance, Reuhl Dabolt seconded. All approved.  

Report from the State Advisory Board: Sylvia Churchwell reported there was no State Advisory Council meeting since our last meeting. She will meet with the Extension Executive Team on February 2 to work on strategic planning involving our district and local advisory councils.  

Business  

Lee Regional Fair Awards – Ronnie Turner, our Lee Regional Fair Chairman, attended the statewide Fair Conference. Our fair size falls between the 15,000-35,000-attendance category. Our fair won in two categories: 1st place in the youth division and 1st place for being an agricultural fair. The Lee Regional Fair missed the image category by one point.  

Nominations to Advisory Council – The committee voted in three new Advisory members, Teri Spivey, Al Garcia, and Amy Dalrymple at the last meeting. Avron welcomed Teri Spivey, representing 4-H, to our meeting.  

Committee Appointments – In our policies and procedures it states that we need three (3) committees appointed; Finance, Advocacy and Marketing. Avron selected members to serve on the committees. The committees are as follows:  

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<tr>
<th>Advocacy</th>
<th>Finance</th>
<th>Marketing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia Churchwell</td>
<td>Reuhl Dabolt</td>
<td>Phil Griffin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Foster</td>
<td>Nancy Gust</td>
<td>Grace Lawrence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Lemmond</td>
<td>Donese Pulley</td>
<td>Frank Thompson</td>
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North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation.
**Foundation Accounts Update** – We have several accounts at the foundation: ECA Enhancement Fund, 4-H has two accounts, and we have our Extension Program Enhancement Fund. As of June 30, 2010 we had a balance of $7,049 in the Extension Program Enhancement Fund. Funds were raised when John Hall retired and they were sitting in an account at the Foundation. John Hall requested that these funds be moved to our Extension Program Enhancement Fund. With the transfer of these funds as of December 1, 2011 we now have $9,460 in the Extension Program Enhancement Fund. This fund is to be used for programming in the future. Financial report is attached to the original minutes.

The other account at the Foundation that supports Extension in Lee County is the McSwain Extension and Research Endowment. As of June 30, 2011 the market value was $23,379. The principal cannot be touched, only the interest. The Income or Spending Account from the Endowment can be used. The rent from the farm for 2010 and 2011 went into the Income or Spending Account. We have spent $323 of the funds for a landscaping project the Maters & Taters 4-H Club did around the storage shed. The available funds in the Income Account as of June 30, 2011 are $5,010. The financial report is attached to the original minutes.

Clinton McRae, South Central District Director, is seeking counties interested in piloting a program to train Advisory Councils to grow their Foundation accounts with funds that will support local programming. Business, industries, and individuals that believe in Cooperative Extension will be asked to give to our program. Frank Thompson made a motion that we allow the Foundation to come and explain to us how funds can be raised. Council will then consider their request. Nancy Gust seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Sandhills Farm To Table** – the financial report showed Extension received $3,466 from SF2T which was divided between ECA, MGV, 4-H, Advisory Council and Extension. Extension Advisory Council received $222. The SF2T was successful this past year with over 125 participating. All were happy with the quality, quantity and service. We would like to partner with Sandhills Farm To Table again this year. It is a way to earn funds for our Extension Enhancement Fund. Avron Upchurch made a motion for Extension to continue participating in the Sandhills Farm To Table in 2012. Brenda Willett seconded the motion. Frank Thompson was concerned that only 2 Lee County farmers participated in SF2T. Susan explained that most of our farmers in Lee County are row crop farmers and the ones growing produce have committed to other markets or may not have enough to supply to SF2T. All approved. Motion carried. The Extension Council agreed to volunteer in the distribution of the produce boxes for Sandhills Farm To Table and agreed to the funds being divided as they were in 2011.

**Financial Committee Report** - Reuhl Dabolt moved that $1,100 of Extensions share of SF2T funds (which was $1,733) earned be placed in our Extension Enhancement Fund, managed by the Agricultural Foundation, Inc., where it can be used to benefit Cooperative Extension Programs in Lee County. Susan mentioned that the new chancellor instituted a new rule that any monies that come into the Enhancement fund, the University will keep 5%. So you will see $1,100 less 5% going into the account. Jane Barringer said it seems like we are losing money if the Foundation takes 5% along with taking ½ of the interest. Susan stated it is the best place to put the funds because they are protected. Frank Thompson asked if we decide to get out of the Enhancement
Fund in a couple of years, what will it cost us? Susan said nothing. Cannot get out of an Endowment. All were in favor of Reuhl’s motion. Motion carried.

Contributing $1,100 to the Enhancement Fund leaves a balance of $633 earned from SF2T. Avron made a suggestion that we entertain the idea of coming up with an event or meal to invite all the volunteers and give them a word of thanks for all they do for Extension. Nancy Gust moved that the balance of the Extension money $633 be used to recognize our volunteers. Discussion was held and Frank Thompson suggested appointing a committee to share ideas at the next Advisory Council Meeting in April. Nancy, motion passed and Avron appointed Frank Thompson, Brenda Willett, Jim Foster, Nancy Gust, and Wayne Watson as the committee to plan the volunteer recognition.

**District Advisory Conference** - The District Advisory Conference will be held in Stanly County on Friday, January 27, 2012. We need eight (8) Advisory members to attend. We will depart from the Cooperative Extension office at 8:00 am and return around 3:00 pm. If you are interested in attending, please let Rhonda know. Will be filling backpacks. Sylvia Churchwell will speak on Advocacy.

**Plan of Work for 2012** – Extension Administration will do a full assessment in the fall. They want us to continue with the programming we are currently doing. We are getting currently writing our 2012 Plan of Work. This is what the agents will be working on in the next 10-12 months. Your input is always welcome. If you see a hot issue and think Extension should be involved, let us know. Extension’s goals and objectives were passed out and are attached to the original minutes.

Brenda will emphasize Local Food Systems and Profitable and Sustainable Agriculture Systems, Volunteerism and Urban and Consumer Agriculture. The Local Food portion will consist of the continuation of Sandhills Farm To Table, work to get people involved in the 10% Campaign, and help farmers identify new markets. The Urban and Consumer Agriculture will focus on helping homeowners with landscape/gardening questions. Will conduct twenty (20) workshops during the year called Successful Gardening. Will continue to work with the Master Gardeners under Volunteerism.

Bill will work on School to Career, which falls under Workforce Development as well as Volunteerism, Community Development and Leadership Development. This will be a Youth Workforce Development Program that he is currently working on with United Way of Lee County, Communities in Schools, Chamber of Commerce as well as Lee County School’s Vocational Education Department.

Seth will leave Cooperative Extension effective January 31, 2012 to take a job with Crop Production Services in Lee County as a Regional Crop Consultant with sales responsibilities. Programs in field crops and livestock have been set and staff will step in to complete these responsibilities. Seth commented that he has enjoyed working with everyone and the experience he has received from Cooperative Extension will benefit him the rest of his career.

**Agent Program Updates and Success Stories**

Bill – 4-H Agent - Continuing with our Character Plus Program, all seven elementary schools are participating with 400 students. A couple of our 4-H clubs have started working with the Robotics. A couple of new 4-H clubs have formed since our last
meeting. The Maters & Taters 4-H Club has been around for 5+ years but has a new leader, Teri Spivey. A new club for the 5-8 year olds has formed.

**Seth Holt - Agriculture** – The winter months are our busy times for meetings, January – March for the Lee County Area Farmers. The livestock producers meetings are taking place and numbers are up from last year. Had a multi-county tobacco growers meeting for Lee, Chatham, Moore and Randolph counties. Had an excellent turn out. The hot topic in Lee County now is grain sorghum. Attended a grain sorghum workshop with 55 Lee County farmers attending.

**Brenda Larson – Horticulture Agent** – The Master Gardener Volunteers are very important to Extension and will continue to have monthly meetings. The helpline will start in April. Will offer a number of workshops beginning in February, Backyard for the Birds and a Beekeeping Webinar. The Master Gardener Volunteers and I will be working with Wesley Faw and the students at Lee Senior High to help them grow plants in the new greenhouse. Working with the commercial growers on expanding markets through Piggly Wiggly and Sandhills Farm To Table.

**County Extension Director Update** – Cooperative Extension has realigned the districts from six to five as of January 1, 2012. A map is attached to the original minutes.

Concerns or comments from Advisory members – None

**Closed Session**

Avron called for a closed session for Advisory members. Discussion was held on staff recognition. The finance committee has requested the Council consider recognizing staff on their birthday with a gift certificate of $35. With a full staff (6 employees) cost will be $210 per year. It was noted that we earned $222 from the Sandhills Farm To Table Program. The funds received from this program will cover the cost of the gift cards.

Nancy Gust moved that the Advisory Council give each full time Lee County Cooperative Extension employee an annual gift certificate of $35 on their birthday and fund it from funds earned by the Advisory Council’s participation in the Sandhills Farm To Table Program. Effective January 1, 2012. Sylvia Churchwell seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Frank suggested we consider giving each employee the day off on his or her birthday. Jim Foster suggested leaving it as “professional scheduling” at the discretion of the County Extension Director. All agreed.

Announcements: None

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

**2012 Advisory Council meeting dates:**
- Thursday, January 19, 2012
- Friday, January 27, 2012 – District Advisory Leadership Conference
- Thursday, April 26, 2012
- **Monday, May 14, 2012 – Report To The People**
- Thursday, July 26, 2012
- Thursday, October 25, 2012