Lee County Advisory Meeting
April 29, 2010

Members present: Avron Upchurch, Charles Oldham, Nancy Gust, Ralph Upton, Reuhl Dabolt, Alan Cox, Sylvia Churchwell, Wayne Watson, Jim Foster, David Dycus, Mary Beth Jackson, Brenda Willett, Jane Barringer, Amy Dalrymple, John Cameron

Staff present: Bill Stone, Stephanie Romelczyk, Debbie Stephenson, Susan Condlin, Rhonda Gaster

Minutes: The minutes were approved as mailed.

Treasurer’s Report: The balance in the NCCE, Lee County account is $7,936.24. Charles Oldham made the motion to accept the treasurer’s report and Reuhl Dabolt second. All approved. Motion carried.

Report from the State Advisory Board – Sylvia Churchwell gave an update to the last State Advisory Council meeting. She stated North Carolina Cooperative Extension in Mecklenburg County is no longer a stand-alone agency; they are operating under Parks and Recreation. Sylvia also presented a program on Advocacy to the State Advisory Council.

Business

New Membership to the Council – Frank Thompson has been recommended for membership in the Lee County Advisory Council. All approved his membership. Avron will follow up and invite Frank to the next meeting.

Operating Procedures for Advisory Council – A copy of the Lee County Extension Advisory Council, Operating Procedures was mailed to the members for review prior to our meeting. After a discussion, the Operating Procedures were approved. The Operating Procedures are attached to the original minutes. Committee Members who develop the operating procedures for the Advisory Council were Jim Foster, Nancy Gust, Mary Beth Jackson, Avron Upchurch and Ralph Upton.

Posting Minutes and Meeting Notice on the Web – It was suggested to post the minutes and upcoming meeting notice to the web. This will result in a saving of paper and stamps. Members without e-mail will receive a mailed copy. Council approved.

4-H Centennial Cookbook – Bill has cookbooks available for $15 each. The proceeds made from the cookbooks will help the overall 4-H program.
4-H District Activity Day – Will be held Thursday, June 24 at Southern Lee High School. 4-H members from 14 counties will be participating. Volunteers are needed in several areas. The event will begin around 10:00 am and last until approximately 3:30 pm. To volunteer, see Bill.

South Central District Leadership Conference Review – Several breakout sessions were offered. Each county highlighted what they are doing. Avron encouraged members to attend next year. Lee County, along with Harnett and Moore Counties, will host the Conference on January 28, 2011. The event will take place at the Dennis Wicker Civic Center.

Report to the People – Will be held May 10. Advisory members should arrive by 5:00 pm. The meal will be served at 5:30 pm. The program will highlight grants we have received this past year: Eat Smart, Move More; Faithful Families; E-Conservation; and Voluntary Agriculture District. Table tents with grant facts will be on the table. At the end of the program, a spin-the-wheel game will be played to see what attendees learned.

Agent Program Updates and Success Stories

Bill Stone – 4-H
- Held an embryology training with 22 participating
- Held the Growing Healthy Kids Program at 6 schools with over 650 5th graders
- Participated with the Character Education Program with the Rotarians
- Have started the Satellite Garden Sites – 10 sites in Lee County
- 4-H Environmental Field Day will be Thursday and Friday, May 6 & 7, 2010 at the Dalrymple Farm.
- The 4-H Golf Tournament will be held Wednesday, May 19 at Tobacco Road. If anyone is interested in playing, see Kay. This is the main financial support event for 4-H.

Stephanie Romelczyk – Horticulture
- Will graduate 10 Master Gardener Volunteers in June – their value to Lee County is over $26,000
- Have held several plant clinics
- The Master Gardener Volunteer Phone Hotline has started. The MGV’s will be in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm
- Held a tri-county Master Gardener Volunteer Conference at the McSwain Center in April. Harnett, Moore and Lee were involved. MGV’s from the tri-county had training and shared program ideas.
- Have started the Satellite Garden Program with Bill

Debbie Stephenson – Faithful Families – Eating Smart and Moving More
- Have given programs to eight faith communities. One church is considering and need one more to complete my obligation in Lee County. If you know a church that could benefit from this program, please see me.
County Extension Director’s Update

- At the last meeting in January a question was brought up about the McSwain Extension Endowment that was open. The original amount put into the fund was $25,000. The University policy states that $5,000 goes into a reserve fund in case the stocks plummet.
- Phil Griffin attended the state Master Gardener Volunteer Conference. His wife, Ann, fell and broke both shoulders. He will be out of circulation for a while taking care of his wife.
- McSwain Farm – David Kelly, the farmer that has leased the McSwain property for the past several years will not farm this year. Hopefully the next farmer will farm all the land, our 20+/- acres and Mrs. McSwain’s acreage. Sharon Rowland, Executive Director for NC Cooperative Extension Foundation thought the rent from our property could go into the Lee County Enhancement Fund, but it cannot. Instead the rent will go into the McSwain Extension Education and Research Endowment and the funds will be available to use on the building or the property.
- Budget Update – The County Manager recommended a 2.9% COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) for county employees. I asked to include Extension since the state will not give a COLA. He agreed. After reviewing the proposed budget he dropped the COLA to 2%. After further review the County Manager offered a 2% COLA after January 1. Then the COLA was eliminated totally. The FCS position was originally in the budget. At a Department Head meeting he asked departments to cut or he will cut. Since the University did not have cost share dollars for the position, I cut the FCS position. Included in this year’s budget is a request for support for a county van and the BMAP (Beaver Management Assistance Program). Office supplies were cut by $800.
- We will have a NCSU summer intern that will work 40 hours a week until August 6, 2010.
- Agriculture Agent Position – This position will remain in the budget. We will interview three people on Tuesday, May 4 beginning at 8:30 am. Each candidate will present a seminar, meet with staff/advisory members and administration.
- Have had a 15-week Eat Smart, Move More Program
- Had monthly VAD meetings
- Have held E-Conservation Classes with home energy audits conducted.

Advisory Council Concerns: There were no comments or concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30.