

**Jefferson County University Extension Education Committee
November 10, 2008**

Call to Order - Chairman Greg Torres called the meeting to order 8:32 a.m.

Roll Call – Committee members Ron Buchanan, Mike Burow, John Kannard and Robert Yachinich.

Also present: Ken Bolton, Joe Bollman, Kathleen Eisenmann, Steve Grabow, Gail Roberts and Dick Pederson, Southern District Director and Gary Petre, County Administrator.

Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law

Meeting posting was certified in accordance with Open Meeting Law requirements.

Approval of the Agenda for Possible Rearrangement

Chairman Torres approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes from September 8, September 24, October 13 and October 28, 2008 Minutes

Motion to approve September 8, September 24, October 13 and October 28, 2008 minutes made by Buchanan; seconded by Burow. Motion approved.

Citizen Input and Comments - none

Monthly Educational Program Report: Gail Roberts

Roberts distributed and reviewed a handout, "The Hierarchy of 4-H", to committee members. Roberts, Youth Development Agent, then gave an in-depth presentation on her position and answered questions from the Committee.

Discussion of Agent Written Reports

The committee had a question for Eisenmann and Bollman on their written reports. Discussion followed.

Discussion on Budget

Torres asked the committee how they would like to discuss the budget amendments. Committee responded that it was up to the chair. Chair Torres asked the committee for comments on the amendments.

First amendment discussed was seven which is to restore one support staff position for the 4-H program. Discussion that this amendment came from Finance; Buchanan and Burrow signed onto this amendment. Eisenmann explained that the other support staff position not being restored is the office manager. Discussion occurred on the wording "dedicated to 4-H"; is it possible to be 100% 4-H. Agents described to the committee what the roles of the support staff are currently. Petre stated that the board feels that the budget cuts need to be made across all departments and equally.

Buchanan asked if anyone has heard feedback on \$20 annual fee. Schmeling added that to the amendment and stated that it would be up to the Extension committee to determine how that worked. Discussion followed. Roberts explained that she was only able to notify people of this as of last night. 32% of the 4-H membership has three or more members per family. It will be a hardship for some families. Questions and discussion followed.

Discussion also occurred around the double taxation issue if local municipalities were charged a user fee. Discussion continued. Committee agreed to discuss "user fees" at an upcoming meeting.

Pederson asked committee members if he could make a few comments. Pederson stated that current policy states that fees for 4-H cannot be used to offset salaries of staff. Pederson also distributed an email that was sent to the committee and stated that UW-Extension wants to be a partner in planning. Pederson asked the committee to allow us (UW-Extension) a chance to work with you on the planning for this office. Restore the Extension budget and let us really sit down and figure this out as thoughtfully and respectfully as possible. Pederson pledged to the committee to come to the table as often as needed to agree on some common ground in this partnership. Pederson said we are partners; we have 91 years of partnership. Customers come and go; partners stick it through the tough times and the best times. Discussion followed.

Torres mentioned that the image that has been portrayed over the last month is that 4-H is the only thing from stopping youth going bad. That image is blatantly false. There are many programs out there. Burrow indicated that there has been time for discussions and that has not happened; the only thing has been restoring fully. He doesn't feel that UW-Extension is immune to this with the situation we have in the county.

Pederson responded to the comment that discussions had not happened and stated that the partner was not invited to the table. Discussion occurred. The committee ended stating that there is an open invitation for the partner to come to the table whenever. Pederson stated that they would like to get to the table and figure out a staffing plan.

Eisenmann asked Petre to speak about the cost sharing of the county with UW-Extension. Petre stated that the cost sharing between the University and the County was discussed at the September meeting at which time the committee asked for additional information to be brought back to them. Petre distributed copies of materials regarding the additional costs received by the county from the UW system. Petre stated that the benefits are quite significant that Jefferson County receives from the UW system and that is really not part of the overall calculations. Discussion occurred. Petre stated that there are six amendments that will be addressed at the County Board meeting tonight that deal with UW-Extension and asked if the committee has a recommendation on them, etc. When all contributions are accounted for the County supports approximately 40% of the local UW-Extension Office and the UW 60%.

Eisenmann clarified that prior committees did not support the combining of the agricultural positions as Schmeling had indicated at the previous finance committee. Eisenmann encouraged committee members to read the minutes from prior meetings that covered that information and were available to committee members at the meeting. Eisenmann also indicated that Howard Wiedenhoef had clarified this at the Public Comment session because he was concerned he had been misrepresented.

Bolton asked Pederson to clarify the access available to the state that would be available to the County if an agent is not in place. Pederson explained that the model is that the specialist works directly with the professional agent in the County with the local need. The specialists do not have the time to work with individuals from various counties; the work is done through the local agent.

Bolton asked committee members if they understand agent expertise sharing across county line and the benefits Jefferson County realizes from it. None indicated that they do.

Bolton asked Pederson to clarify what happens with Ken's state funding dollars if his position is cut due to Schemling's comment at the Farm Bureau meeting that perhaps the position could be refunded after a couple of years. Pederson responded that if Ken's position was cut, the state would look to relocate Ken elsewhere within the state. The county would be without the expertise that Ken provides. Bolton summarized that the state's allocation of funds is on a position basis and not to the county; the funding is tied to the employee. Without Ken, the funding goes away; it is no longer available to the county.

Discussion and explanation of amendment 18 occurred. Petre reviewed the amendment and explained that he has been made aware that there might be an amendment made on the floor to not use Farmland Preservation money to support the ½ time Dairy and Livestock Agent but rather use ½ the funding of the Crops and Soils Agent position to fund it. Bolton stated that there will be discussion about the wisdom of using some or any portion of the Farmland Preservation money. Ken stated that there is a misconception on Farmland Preservation that preserving land preserves farms; rather preserving farmers preserves farm land. Bolton stated that perspective hasn't been discussed yet. Discussion occurred.

Torres made a last call to the committee to make a recommendation on the amendments or additional comments on the budget. No comments were made.

Identify Next Meeting Dates and Possible Agenda Items

Tentative Upcoming Meeting Dates – December 8; January 12, 2009; February 9, 2009. Future agenda items: general discussion of user fees; 133 contract for agent salaries; discuss the 2009 adopted budget.

Adjournment

Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kannard to adjourn meeting. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Buchanan, Secretary