

Vermilion County Extension Council Minutes
March 26, 2009 6:30 p.m.

Present: Gale Cunningham, Kevin Green, Stacy Larson, Charlie Kentner, Dorothy Ksiazkiewicz, Darrell Light, Meni McNeese, Belinda Russell, Marianne Venute

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman Gale Cunningham. Gale opened with comments regarding the importance of keeping the Vermilion County Board informed of what is happening with Extension.

The minutes of the February 18 meeting were approved by the group.

Stacy Larson provided the Extension Update. The Extension Trust for FY09 was reviewed. Special mention was that premium money should arrive in April. There is a reduction in the travel budget. FNP program provided \$55,706.50 to the Trust budget. This helps offset the cost of rent. Stacy also mentioned that Debra Bryant will no longer continue with cleaning services and that the staff met and agreed to assume the responsibility among themselves.

Stacy Henn Larson was complimented by the Extension Council for presenting an excellent budget report.

Old Business

Foundation Committee Report. \$2589.91 in Checking and \$1000 in a CD. Working on Fundraising ideas. The Quilt is completed and tickets will be available soon.

Building Report. Nothing to report except that Stacy will meet with Nigel Austin on March 31, 2009 and will discuss the lease agreement.

Master Gardener Report. Dorothy K reported that the Garden Day went well. Great attendance and workshops. Soil testing will be done in April. The June Garden Walk will have 7 gardens to tour. Gale reported hearing comments from attendees that the Garden Day was FANTASTIC!

Internet Master Report. Marianne reported that classes will resume in the fall. They are looking into topics suggested by past attendees and may add a few new things to the offerings.

Budget Advisory Committee. This group has not met yet. A motion was made to accept those currently listed. (Marianne Venute, Corky Nightlinger, Darrell Light, Meni McNeese, and Gale Cunningham)

New Business

4-H Program Update by Paige Brown, 4-H Community Worker. As of March 26 Paige reported having 201 members enrolled in 4-H with a few clubs still to submit forms. There are 12 clubs in the county. The dates of the fair are July 7-11 with some project judging taking place prior to the fair. There will be 1 fair book this year that includes both 4-H and county fair information. Paige is trying to build bridges between the fair board and Extension.

Paige reported that next 4-H year there will be a \$20 per member 4-H program fee. There has been no fee in the past. This fee will assist with publication and operational costs of the program.

Paige was complimented by Gale Cunningham and the council for doing a great job revitalizing the 4-H program.

Stacy reported on the Together We Can survey and asked members to complete the online survey and take bookmarks and cards to their workplaces and to share with friends and family. This survey will help the state identify program needs and provide valuable local information as well.

Discussion was raised about the Extension office moving to the fairgrounds. Two in attendance opposed the idea and stated their concerns. Discussion followed. The council members stated they would like a solution that saves the most funds for Extension.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: May 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. This will be the last meeting prior to fair.