

Marion Citizens Advisory Network – meeting notes from 1/29/08

Members Attending: Cindy Pease, Joan Erwert, Jeff Hollabaugh, Zach Taylor, Jerry Mullen, Pat Rigsby, Roger Keiffer, Ryan Kinnett, Jim Castle and Lisa Wallig
Extension office: Donita Roseboro and Derek Godwin

Introductions – name, what keeps you busy, programs in which you are involved

Overview of meeting agenda and goals/accomplishments:

1. Get to know each other and how we work in the communities we serve
2. Increase understanding of the Extension Service as an organization serving Marion County
3. Gain perspective on the issues and driving forces affecting the Extension Service
4. Begin forming a mission statement for the group, and identify how the group could help Extension this year

(open, fair, honest, facilitate for time)

Sharing our involvement with Extension – most of the evening was a round table discussion of programs in which we are involved and why we are involved. Here are a few highlights:

Zach Taylor and Jerry Mullen – grass seed growers; they worked with Gale Gingrich (retired Extension field crops) for many years and now work with Tom Silberstein (Extension field crops). Extension has conducted various types of research (e.g. fertilizer trials, fescue trials, rust trials) and helped identify pests (e.g. winter grain mite) which have saved them significant amounts of money. They have also participated in field tours in which information is shared with other growers. Extension provides certification of seed crops which is crucial to the industry.

Pat Rigsby and Roger Keiffer – Master Gardeners; they take 12 weeks of training to become certified, and they complete additional trainings each year to remain certified. They provide research-based information to home gardeners through the Master Gardener desk in the Extension office. They provide community outreach through clinics, plant sales, demonstration sites (Oregon Garden, Peace Plaza, St. Francis, and Humane Society), booths at Ag Fest and the public market, and speaking weekly on KBZY. They maintain the demonstration garden behind the Extension office.

Jim Castle – natural resources; Jim completed the Master Watershed Steward program in 2000 and conducted a restoration project on his own property; he volunteers with the Sustainable Communities events like YES'05; he has worked with the SWCD in Polk and Marion counties; he volunteers as a mentor/reader with 4th graders at Brush College Elementary and he provides peer counseling to seniors. Jim said that he is interested in having Extension host a variety of education forums on current issues like field burning. There was some discussion on the field burning and air quality issue.

Cindy Pease, Joan Erwert and Jeff Hollabaugh – Cindy is a 4H leader, treasurer for the Leaders Association, and volunteers with the LEAD, horse development committee and

various other 4H activities. Joan is a 4H youth member and involved with LEAD, dogs, cavies, small animals and many 4H activities. Both Cindy and Joan are interested in supporting and keeping 4H going. Jeff Hollabaugh is a 4th generation 4H'er and livestock owner (currently has market lambs on 5 acres). He volunteers with FFA and 4H on various activities including the Junior Livestock auction at the Fair. Jeff is a sales rep for PolyExcel (a bailing twine business) and also works with the Ag Fiber association.

Lisa Wallig – food nutritionist, she worked with Cal Poly on food nutrition programs, she has volunteered with Holly Berry (Family and Community Development Extension faculty) for 10 years on family food education programs, outreach with KBZY and various other activities. (Note – since this meeting, Lisa was hired by our office as a part-time Food and Nutrition Instructor working with youth in area schools.)

Ryan Kinnett – works at Roberts alternative High School program and with Dan Hoynacki's Sustainable Communities program, Ryan works on a wide variety of activities targeting at-risk youth, water and environmental issues and community projects. He is involved with YES (Youth enviro-squad), W3 (watersheds, wildlife and what-not), CEI (Caretakers of the Environment International) conferences, and a CCTV partnership with IKE box that teaches youth about various media technology.

Overview of Issues, Purpose of Advisory Network –

- Derek gave his perspective on why he works with OSU Extension – “I believe in working with people to make a positive difference in communities.” He described why he invited everyone to serve on the advisory network. In addition to supporting the mission of Extension, each person brings a unique skill and perspective that will help promote and develop a healthy organization.
- Why an advisory network? – Derek presented a handout (also mailed) on the purpose of the Advisory Network and an overview of the organizational structure
- Driving Forces overview – Derek presented a handout on the various driving forces effecting audiences Extension serves and Extension funding.

Identify work items for this year; Begin discussing Mission and group structure
Short term and long term needs – Derek provided a quick list of “needs” or “opportunities” in which the advisory members could become involved. These included meeting with commissioners, helping on search committee for new youth position, creating a marketing plan, providing feedback on annual budget, providing presentations at elected officials' forums and serving in booths at Ag Fest and other festivals. These items would be discussed in more detail at the next couple of meetings.

Roger Keiffer provided a quick overview of the statewide Citizens Advisory Network for OSU Extension Service

The next meetings were scheduled for April 29th and September 30th (5th Tuesday night) at the Extension office from 6:30 – 8:30pm.