The West Central Regional Advisory Committee meeting was called to order on March 16, 2010 at the Morgan County Extension Office in Jacksonville, Illinois.

**In Attendance:**
- Ryan Hobson, West Central Regional Director
- Susan Adams (Chairman), Logan County
- Jean Barron, Cass-Schuyler Unit
- Sharon Spangler, Fulton County (via internet)
- Richard Burling, Hancock County
- Charlie Peterson, Montgomery County
- John Sutton, Logan County
- Amy McCallister, McDonough County
- Phil Bartz, Morgan-Scott Unit
- Wayne Bingham, Pike County
- Jeff Berg, Sangamon-Menard Unit
- Jack Pfaffmann, Woodford County
- Lee Trotter, ESAC

**Not In Attendance:**
- Adams-Brown Unit
- Calhoun-Jersey Unit
- Christian County
- Greene County
- Macoupin County
- Mason County
- Peoria County
- Tazewell County

Following dinner, the meeting was called to order. Introductions were made.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved. Motion to approve by Charlie Peterson, seconded by Phil Bartz.

**ESAC UPDATE – Lee Trotter**
- A briefing on the trip to Washington, D.C. was presented.

**EXTENSION PARTNERS – Jack Pfaffmann**
- Extension Partners is an advocacy group for Extension funding and awareness with State representatives.
• An informational paper was handed out, explaining that the group is composed of people of all ages who share an awareness of Extension’s benefits and a commitment to building support for it.
• Membership information was also provided. Individual annual dues are $20 and can be mailed to Extension Partners, PO Box 5531, Bloomington, IL 61702-5531.

UNIT UPDATES
Cass/Schuyler Unit - Jean Barron
• 4-H Cooking 101 – this six-week program has been presented to nearly 100 fourth graders. The program concludes with all students preparing a recipe out of the cookbook and bringing it to school to be judged.
• Fitness & Nutrition – over 100 students from Virginia and Beardstown have been involved with this eleven week nutrition, expanding food choices, and exercise program.
• Junior Master Gardeners – a new group has been formed with the Special Needs class at the Rushville-Industry High School.
• Community Gardens – both counties will host community gardens this summer. Produce from the gardens will be donated to local community organizations, including two local food pantries.
• 4-H Federation – two fundraisers were held in the past year. Money raised from these events help support Federation activities and 4-H programs.
• Programs and events scheduled for spring and summer include horticulture programming, a pond management workshop, Ag Day on the Square, a Rural Safety program, two county 4-H Fairs, and summer youth camps.

Greene County – information provided by Joe Harness (not in attendance)
• 4-H
  o 73 youth, including 5 Cloverbuds, are enrolled in 6 traditional 4-H clubs. Another 169 youth were reached through Bicycle Safety, Food Safety & Nutrition, and other programs throughout the year.
  o Profits from a fundraiser were used to purchase 77 blankets for the Prairie Council on Aging to distribute to low-income seniors.
  o 4-H’ers assisted with the Salvation Army Kettle Drive.
  o A Holiday Workshop was held.
• Ag & Natural Resources
  o Recruited a volunteer to be trained as a Master Gardener for Greene County.
  o Information and education was provided to 23 people in the areas of crops, livestock, horticulture, natural resources and farm management.
• Nutrition, Family, and Consumer Sciences
  o FNP lessons were presented to 253 youth and adults. Sites included Greene County Health Department, North Greene Jr. High, and St. John’s School.
  o Teen Health classes were provided for 48 students at North Greene High School.
Eating Well with Diabetes was presented in cooperation with Carol Schlitt.

- Community & Economic Development
  - Staff served on the Board of Directors of the Greene County Economic Development Group, Inc.
  - Fifteen local citizens served on the Greene County Extension Council.
- Website – the office website received 7314 hits.
- Contributions – a $1000 grant was received for the 2010 Teen Leadership Conference for elementary school students.

Hancock County – Wayne Bingham

- Welcome to the Real World – presented to all 7th and 8th grade students in the County.
- Held monthly Youth Leadership Academy meetings representing all high schools in the county.
- Internet Safety – presented to 3rd – 12th grade students through newsletters, assemblies, teacher trainings, parent trainings and featured presentations.
- Shooting Sports 4-H program implemented in the county. Currently 45 participants and 7 additional volunteers.
- Farmland Leasing Program presented in February
- Private PSEP Programs resulted in 82 producers renewing or obtaining their license.
- Facilitated Building Communities webinar
- Assisted with Communications presentation at Problem Solving seminar for High School Juniors.
- Maintained website and Facebook site.

Logan County – Susan Adams

- Two SPIN (Special Interest) clubs are being formed:
  - Shooting Sports – training two adult volunteers
  - Gardening – working with Lincoln Library on forming this club
- Ag Management
  - Hartem and Lincoln High Schools are taking part on this take-off on the Illinois Soybean Yield Challenge. Classes are being taught in soybean production, including seed, fertility, crop protection chemicals, and soybean cyst nematodes. Each class will get 5 acres to raise their soybeans. Scouting will be done throughout the summer, and yield measurements taken in the fall.
- Website – contains current information in all program areas, plus “Around the County” and “In the Back Yard” blogs by John Fulton.
- Horticulture and Master Gardeners – 45 active Master Gardeners taking part in several projects.
- FNP – the Food & Nutrition Program reached 1600 clients through programming in the past year.
McDonough County – Amy McCallister

- 4-H -
  - Federation provided a live window for Dickens on the Square in Macomb and won an award.
  - Leaders Meeting – Susan DeGrinio from the Health Department discussed fundraising and food safety requirements.
  - Robotics training was held in March.
  - Working with WIU on livestock judging contest.

- Community –
  - Internet Safety program for ROE. Sent informational flyer to all schools in the county.
  - Youth Leadership Organization – provided Bullying Simulation and Poverty Simulation.
  - Character Education – provided for students throughout the county.

Montgomery County – Charlie Peterson

- Ag, Natural Resources, and Horticulture
  - Soil & Water Management Workshop
  - Macoupin/Montgomery County Agronomy Day
  - Private Pesticide Safety Testing
  - Four Seasons Gardening Series

- Family, Health and Wellness
  - Diabetes Cooking School

- 4-H
  - Project Day
  - Public Speaking Workshop
  - International Night
  - Shooting Sports program

- Community & Economic Development
  - Spring 2010 Tele-Institute Series (CCO Credits)
  - Building Communities Webinar Series
  - Leadership Academy
  - Parents Forever! Education program required in Montgomery County before divorce is final.

Morgan/Scott – Phil Bartz

- 4-H & Youth
  - Where Does Your Food Come From? was presented to more than 300 kindergarten students and their teachers from 18 classrooms.
  - Reality Store
  - 4-H Livestock Judging
  - Bullying: Breaking the Code was presented to nearly 400 youth in Scott County.
  - Going Green was held at the Morgan County Fairgrounds for 1st through 3rd grade students. Students learned about solar power, electricity
conservation, water conservation, wind power, recycling-reusing-reducing, and experienced the Live Line Wire demonstration.

- **Wellness & Nutrition**
  - *Candy Making* workshop, *Let’s Grill – Healthy and Safe*, and *How to Make Pies & Pastries* were offered. The three workshops brought in combined fees of $2500.

- **Ag & Natural Resources**
  - Pesticide Safety Education and Training – 118 producers trained
  - *Focus on the Farm and Home* and *Family Life* Radio programs – more than 100 informational radio programs were delivered in the past year.
  - *DDDI* – utilized to make rapid diagnosis of plant disorders and pests.

**Pike County – Wayne Bingham**

- **4-H & Youth**
  - *Cloverbuds Galore* – 18 Cloverbuds attended this Dinosaur-themed party.
  - Legislative Connection – attended the March 9 program at the IL State Capitol.
  - Operation Safe Kids – nearly 200 third grade students are participating in this program.

- **Community & Economic Development**
  - Hazard Mitigation Plan – worked with over 20 local officials and agency representatives to develop a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan.
  - Transit Partnership Group – led the partnership of over 30 county agencies, communities and nonprofit organizations into the third phase of the transportation primer process, including the collection of over 800 transportation surveys.

- **Nutrition & Wellness**
  - FNP program presented a series of demonstrations for preparing venison at local food pantries. The demonstrations correlated with the donation of venison to the food pantries by area hunters.
  - Nutrition Workshop series – held throughout the winter and spring to educate participants of varying ages in the techniques of bread making, using slow cookers, making pastries, homemade convenience mixes, and salsa. A grant was awarded by the General Mills Foundation.

- **Agriculture**
  - Women in Agriculture assisted nearly 30 local agri-women increase their awareness of the steps needed to transition an estate.

**Woodford County – Jack Pfaffmann**


- 4-H Shooting Sports – currently over 80 youth are enrolled. There are 7 trained volunteers, and 15 volunteers trained as assistants.
A survey has been distributed pertaining to potential mergers with other counties. 80 responses have been received.

**Regional Director Update – Ryan Hobson**

**Public Meetings and Governor’s 2011 Budget**
Ryan handed out a copy of Dr. Hoeft’s public meeting presentation and briefly reviewed it. Also, an Extension Partner email regarding the Governor’s budget was distributed.

**Unit FY2011 Budget and FY2010 Budget at 50% County Board Match (CBM)**
FY11 unit budget deadline has been extended from May 15, 2010 to June 15, 2010 due to the fiscal situation the state is in. Hopefully we’ll know more about County Board Match payments for this fiscal year (FY10) by then. Also, Each Regional Director will review units’ present fiscal situations with the assumption that only 50% of CBM will be received if any actions need to take place.

**Interim County Directors**
- Earl Allen, county director in Fulton, is interim county director in Tazewell. Earl will serve in that capacity until full reorganization is implemented July 1, 2011.
- Sherry Merry, 4-H youth development unit educator in Hancock, has been Hancock County Director since the first of the year.
- Interim will need to be named in mid-May for Sangamon-Menard.

**Centers Closing**
The Macomb Center lease expires June 30, 2010 and will not be renewed. East Peoria Center lease expires June 30, 2011 and the lease will be renewed. The Springfield Center will remain open through June 30, 2011 while decisions are made about use of the building. The WC Regional Office might relocate to the state fairgrounds.

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<tr>
<th>Other Centers closing: June 30, 2010</th>
<th>Other Center Plans:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbondale</td>
<td>Rockford – lease ends 10/31/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effingham</td>
<td>may become hub for multi-county unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matteson</td>
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<td>Macomb</td>
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<td>Mt. Vernon</td>
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**Action timeline for Center closings**
April 1: Support staff names sent to SHR to determine registers and bumping rights

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Center Lease end dates</th>
<th>Regional Office Leases</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Champaign 6/11</td>
<td>Northeast 11/30/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Peoria 6/11</td>
<td>Southern 6/30/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edwardsville 10/11</td>
<td>East Central 9/30/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Countryside 6/14</td>
<td>West Central 2/14/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quad Cities 1/14</td>
<td>Northwest 1/31/14</td>
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Fiscal Decisions for FY11
- Center Educators if become telecommuters will not receive any additional compensation for cell phones or connectivity.
- Present telecommuters will not have telecommuting compensation as of August 15, 2010.
- Unit hosting a Center Educator will receive $2,000 for one year to assist with overhead expenses.
- There will not be a two-tier system for County Board Match. All local sources will be matched at available match amount. Regional Directors will review agreements to insure match eligibility or identify local fund source as grant.

Programmatic Decisions
Approximate 20 field specialists with 10/12 appointment will end Aug. 15, 2010 and will agree to a change of title, job description and become a 12/12 educator position.

Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (April 2, 2010 deadline)
Approved employees will have to separate from the University of Illinois no later than August 15, 2010. Approved employees will be required to sign a Separation Agreement with a release of claims. In general, each employee who separates from the University in accordance with the VSIP will receive a lump-sum payment equal to 50% of the employee’s annual base salary as of April 2, 2010, up to a maximum amount of $75,000, less required deductions.

Other:
1. Details of current Extension reorganization. How much will we be able to impact what is happening to us?
2. Any update on a potential 4-H project to learn about becoming an election judge.
   1. I visited with Denise Legvold, director of state 4-H office, about it. She said that PYD (Positive Youth Development) needs a high component of self-directed learning in youth. She feels this would require excessive adult directed learning on learning the ins and outs of becoming an election judge.

Next meeting is September 21, 2010 at the West Central Region Office in Springfield.

Motion to adjourn made by Phil Bartz, seconded by Jack Pfaffmann. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.