NORTHWEST REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
November 20, 2003
Bureau County Extension Office

Members present:
Boone: Michael Lager  
Bureau: Francis Morse  
H/M/W: Marge Hennenfent (TeleNet)  
Henry-Stark: Harley Hepner  
Jo Carroll: Carl Albrecht (TeleNet)  
La Salle: Jerry Lundeen  
Lee: Reed Akre  
Marshall-Putnam: Paul Bauer  
Rock Island: John Flaherty  
Stephenson: Joni Todd

Not present:
DeKalb: Kris Aves  
Grundy: Joan Soltwisch  
Knox: Claudia Emken  
Ogle: Bob Goelitz  
Whiteside: Gordon Kelm  
Winnebago: Janet Hill

Selection of Chairperson and Recorder
Harley Hepner - Chairperson  
Michael Lager - Recorder

Northwest Region Update:
LaSalle has a Unit Leader position open. 27 candidates have applied.  
Marshall-Putnam, Bureau, and Grundy have a Youth Development position open.  
Stephenson has a Unit Leader position opening soon due to a retirement.

Downsizing:
State funding cut and matching funds cut  
Budget cuts – hold back 2% and fixing to hold back another 2%.  
Central administration is holding back necessary funds in case of expected fund callbacks. Contingencies are in place to buffer any future financial shortfalls.  
Letter to Department of Agriculture where match is held has asked for an even distribution of match payments.

Budgets and Funding
State match after unmet agreements are 93% to 94%.  
Help unit leaders write grants and be more progressive at the county board level.  
Grant Workshops have been done to help write successful grants, share information, and seek out the foundations for added dollars.  
(Send out your local newsletters to the county board members to keep them abreast of what Extension does in their community.)
Strategic Agenda and White Paper: (see handout from packet)

10 to 15 year target date.
Make a difference.
Deal with changes that are occurring – adjust.
Demographics – Chicago/ Rockford area / Moline area – major population of Illinois.
Extension Partners – lobbyist group to support Extension. Cost is $20/year to belong.

Status of the Video Internet System for Distance Learning:

This system will save an estimated $20,000 per year in long distance costs.
East Moline and Rockford offices have video cameras - East Moline being a delivery site and Rockford being a reception site. More sites will come as dollars become available. Capabilities in the region are increasing in their capacity to deliver programs through distance technology. This will increase efficiency and offset losses in staff and diminished travel funding.

Other Discussion:

4-H cuts for the State Fair – will exhibitors that live at a distance drop off their exhibits/projects for the fair or forget about showing them?
The governor did the cut for the State Fair budget.

Date of Next Meeting:

February 19, 2003  TeleNet  6:00 p.m.
May 13, 2004  Face to Face  6:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned:  8:05 PM

Minutes Submitted by:  Michael Lager, Recorder