**EXTENSION STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**October 11-12, 2010**

**Attendees:** Carolyn Willenburg, Tanesha Pittman, Wayne Mundisinger, Jim King, Larry Boyd, Nigel Austin, John Flaherty, Dale Law, Karen Hawthorne, Bob Hoeft, Marilyn Brengle, Randy Seggebruch, Bob Koehn, Jack Pfaffmann, Mike Lager, Gerald Correthers. Lee Trotter, Art King, Brian Basting. Dean Hauser, Tom Dahlfors, Keith Krapf, Bill Minnis, Ryan Hobson

**Presenters:** Richard Hentschel, Mike Gray, Judee Richardson, Denise Legvold

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Tanesha Pittman

Tanesha asked ESAC members to introduce themselves as we have several new people. Tanesha introduced Dean Robert Hauser who proceeded to give a brief bio of his career and his vision for Extension. He stressed that what ESAC was providing was extremely important and useful that all advisory committees provide a perspective from an “outside” standpoint.

Dr. Hauser opened the floor for questions. Questions included whether we were getting all of the Extension dollars or were other departments sharing in them. Dr. Hauser assured the Council that Extension was getting all of their dollars.

Another question pertained to Extension being taken beyond ACES to include other departments as well. Dr. Hauser replied there was a committee looking at this and it was possible that Extension would be moved from the College level to the Campus level. Dr. Hauser mentioned two things would merit Extension: moving Extension up to College level and funding coming directly from State to campus and Extension and not having to come through the College. It was asked how this would affect us. Dr. Hauser said it will not really affect us. Discussion ensued on this issue.

Lastly it was asked about our current funding and when we could expect it. Dr. Hauser said to the best of his knowledge we should have final payments by the end of the calendar year.

Brian Basting recognized outgoing members John Flaherty and Bill Minnis and presented them with an umbrella. Tanesha then reviewed the agenda.

John Flaherty motioned for the approval of the February minutes, Michael Lager seconded. Motion passed unanimously with four abstentions.

Dr. Hoeft began his presentation on the reorganization, which included an update on the budget, payments, key office locations (proposed), number of personnel in each program area and County Directors. He also mentioned the new County Directors names would be released early
next week with the educators in the not so distant future. Several Council members gave updates as to what was taking place in their various regions regarding the reorganization.

Break at 3:00 p.m.

Richard Hentschel provided a PowerPoint slide show on the “City Produce Project”. Because of Urban decline, many grocery stores are moving out of the city of Chicago, so neighborhoods have begun getting together and growing their own produce. This nutrition program was started because most of the vegetables consumed in Chicago came from fast food stores and/or canned vegetables and people were not eating more than a pound of fruit or vegetables within a year.

He said one earth box can produce 40-50 lbs of vegetables and showed pictures of various earth boxes. An earth box consists of dirt, water, and a water reservoir in bottom along with an overflow spout. Earth boxes can be stacked and stored over winter. Discussion included information about earth boxes, how to get the neighborhoods interested in starting this project, and preventing theft. The basic answer to all of these was the neighborhood begins to take pride and that pride takes over. This project has also expanded to the Cook County jail where the inmates grow produce for local soup kitchens and missions.

Dr. Mike Gray, Agriculture and Natural Resource (ANR) Program Coordinator presented a PowerPoint slideshow on ANR. He explained that in the beginning, educators did many farm visits whereas nowadays producers contact us through the internet or e-mail and ask to have information sent to them. We still have the smaller farmers coming into the Extension offices, but the larger growers prefer to get their information over the internet.

Dr. Gray’s slideshow included the USDA Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 and mentioned that Extension wanted to lead the effort toward benchmarks. He also mentioned they have requested 12 positions for Local Food Systems and 18 for Horticulture. He also mentioned that the FarmDoc website is very well received and lots of commercial growers as well as small farmers utilize the information found on the website.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:49 pm. Dinner at Butitta’s 6:00 p.m. Meet in lobby at 5:30 pm.

**Tuesday, October 12, 2010**

Meeting called to order at 8:15 a.m. Tanesha went over the day’s agenda. Dr. Hoeft asked the Council for feedback on the reorganization from the Regional Advisory Council.
Northeast Region: Overall the transition is doing fine, some confusion among the volunteers regarding information they are receiving. Discussion ensued regarding office and building usage.

West Central Region: Morale is bad among the communities. The communities are concerned they are not going to have enough staff to do what is needed in the next couple years to move us ahead 10 years. They are very nervous.

Southern Region: Much the same as the West Central region, the communities do not think they are being treated fairly and such it is creating animosity. Discussion ensued regarding the 4-H Clubs.

East Central Region: County Boards are the primary opposition, they are hesitant to fund the units and are developing a trust issue. Discussion ensued on ways to keep the County Board’s satisfied.

Discussion continued on ways to ease the tension and doubt in the field out in the field.

Break at 9:22 a.m.

Judee Richardson, Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Program Coordinator presented a PowerPoint slideshow on FCS. She focused on the new program initiatives coming from the USDA and the White House Task Force. She also cited that there would be sharing amongst states, an example would be North Dakota, Indiana and Ohio looking at specialists in aging, food safety and housing, and submitting a proposal as a region. She also mentioned various FCS programs sponsored by the USDA. Discussion took place regarding the various programs within the FCS area including EFNEP.

Ryan Hobson, Interim Community and Economic Development (CED) Program Coordinator presented a PowerPoint slideshow on CED. He went through the current statewide programs including: Tele-Institutes, Community Matters, Community Swap, Engaging Generations, Strategic and Organizational Planning, Customer First…Service is the Key! Local Foods and Poverty Simulations. A question was raised regarding adding programs in Tourism, Agritourism and Ecotourism. Ryan said yes, that is a possibility. Another question was asked if partnering with other groups was available. Ryan said you do not necessarily need an educator present, that you can access the programs without one.

Denise Legvold, Director State 4-H Office presented a PowerPoint slideshow on 4-H and Youth Development (YD). 4-H programming priorities to address future needs and reorganizational structure were discussed.
Denise handed out the new marketing brochure and spoke about the $15,000 grant they received to be able to produce and make available in every county so that we can start to have a statewide visual identity.

Denise mentioned the Illinois 4-H Foundation license plate. It is now in the second phase where they need 1500 commitments before production will commence. Commitment is $25 that will come directly to the 4-H Foundation before production and the worst case scenario is we do not reach the 1500 commitment, but the Illinois 4-H Foundation will still receive all contributed funds. Discussion ensued regarding the State 4-H Office and the 4-H Foundation with regard to endowments, gifts, mail campaigns, etc.

Tanesha thanked the Program Leaders for sharing.

Other Business:

Next ESAC meeting will be on February 21-22, 2010. The PILD Conference will be in Washington DC April 18th through the 20th.

Dr. Hoeft thanked the Council for serving and that he appreciated all the comments and suggestions. He is very optimistic about the reorganization.

Tom Dahlfors motioned the meeting be adjourned. Mike Lager seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.