Kansas State Extension Advisory Council Meeting February 16, 2009

The Kansas State Extension Advisory Council met on Monday, February 16, 2009 at the Kansas Electric Power Cooperative's Office in Topeka, Kansas.

The Kansas State Extension Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Chair Kevin Journagan. Members and Staff introduced themselves and told how their areas are dealing with their budgets.

Members present: Kevin Journagan, Jerry Dreher, Judy Parsons, Jo Ann Murray, Bob Gottlob, Steve Long, Bryan Brauer, Brad Fuller, Kelly Overmiller, Dan Johnson, Andy Sramek, Janel Harman, Tresa Jones, John Kramer, Carolyn Harms, Gary Price, Larry Turner, Michele Janson, Jerry Hall, and Jay Weseloh. Members with excused absence: Donita Sparks and Julia Strnad.

KSU Administrators Present: Fred Cholick, Director; Daryl Buchholz, Assoc. Director; J. Pat Murphy, Pat McNally, Paula Peters, and Jim Lindquist, Assistant Directors; Paul Hartman, Dale Fjell, J.D. McNutt and Chris Onstad, Area Directors; Steven Graham, Assistant to the Director; and Zelia Wiley, Assistant Dean for Diversity Programs.

LaRochelle Young, policy advisor to Senator Brownback, joined us as a guest.

Fred Cholick gave an update on several issues. He gave information on the state budget reductions. The outlook changes often and we will likely not know what FY2010 holds until the end of the 2009 legislative session in May. He also discussed planning processes that include the possibility of personnel reductions and/or furloughs.

Daryl reviewed the agenda and roles and expectations of the State Extension Advisory Council.

Bob Gottlob moved and Bryan Brauer seconded the motion to accept the minutes from the August 22, 2008 meeting. Motion passed. Jerry Dreher moved and Dan Johnson seconded the motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Daryl led a review and discussion from the Partnership Meetings from last month. We split up into small groups to discuss how we might strengthen our local boards, how to become more effective and useful, and better ways to ensure board development. A few topics of discussion included: having less presentation time from administration and more discussion/interaction time for board members; to provide some type of presentation to take back to local boards; encourage new board members to attend Partnership Meetings; use the Board Leadership Modules; and have a separate meeting for new board members to orientate them to board expectations and roles. The question was raised regarding more face to face conference / training for Board members, and no consensus was reached. All agree the role of board member and PDC member is often not well understood.

Paula Peters set the stage for small group discussion on inclusiveness in Extension. Each small group was given a scenario and then each group role played their discussions. We talked about taking baby steps to become more open minded and setting aside embedded biases of difference among gender, race, ethnicity, age, education, etc.

Fred prepared the group for our legislative office visits. Key points to make with the legislator would include letting them know who we are, what we represent, what is State Extension Advisory Council, give personal example of a local Extension program that is making a difference, and thank them for their support. We are there as advocates of the Extension program and to only give information. We moved into small groups again and discussed the message to convey to the legislator in consideration of the public value of Extension. Each group shared programs and outcomes that were of public value to participants.

The fall SEAC meeting will be August 27 & 28, 2009 in Northwest Kansas. Location and details will be sent out later.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. Members of SEAC visited legislative offices throughout the morning and early afternoon of Tuesday, February 17.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Parsons, secretary