

## **Extension Leadership Council**

*Frederick County*

October 5, 2022

The Frederick County Extension Leadership Council (ELC) met on Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at MidAtlantic Farm Credit, Winchester, VA. The following were present: Heather McKay, Brandon Monk, Rose McDonald, Keighley Gore, Ray Cross, Sharon Mauzy, Kunduck Moon, Dody Stottlemeyer, Grettel Vargas and VCE Staff: Mark Sutphin, Joanne Royaltey, Spring Vasey, Corey Childs, Elizabeth Baldwin, and Marsha Wright.

Mark Sutphin, called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. as Chair Heather McKay and Vice-Chair Brandon Monk notified their attendance would be delayed.

Introductions of the new ELC members (Redbud-Sharon Mauzy; Stonewall-JD Cline [absent]; At-Large-Grettel Vargas) and existing ELC members were made.

Spring Vasey, the new Frederick County 4-H Youth Development Agent, provided a history of her education and work experience bringing her to the position.

Mark turned the meeting over to the Vice Chair Brandon Monk.

### **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Kunduck Moon made a motion that the July 6, 2022 minutes be approved. Ray Cross seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

### **Extension from Your Viewpoint (offered by Staff and ELC members)**

- Report on the Frederick County Farm Crawl and that the Extension publications were well received.
- Report about Extension Master Gardener Volunteers in Frederick County.
- Report on the Giant Food grant that was awarded to NSVMGA and was used to create gardens at several local schools and the Winchester Rescue Mission.
- Volunteers were thanked who work with youth at the local and state fairs.
- Report of past and future 4-H events noting National 4-H Week October 2-8.
- Report that Frederick youth did well at the State 4-H Horse Show. An article on one Frederick County 4-Her was in the Horse Times magazine. Shooting Education also did well at national competition.

### **What's Happening in Winchester and Frederick County**

- Northern Shenandoah Valley 4-H agents will participate in Worlds of Work in the Science World.
- ELC member expressed a community concern to allow non-rural residents to raise chickens.
- ELC member suggested Extension have a presence at the Frederick County Farm Crawl events in 2023.
- ELC member commented that local businesses are offering canning classes. Training needs were expressed for labeling products, pressure canner lid testing, and additional food safety and food preservation education.
- ELC member felt a poultry processing facility in Frederick County with USDA inspection was a community need.
- ELC member stated a local slaughter house advertises the livestock programs offered by Extension on their Facebook page. Handouts for events were requested to distribute at the store. It was also

commented that there is a growing issue in processing the larger livestock being brought to slaughter houses. It was suggested farmers be educated on appropriate market weights. Corey acknowledged programs are being planned.

- ELC member asked, if funds become available, could all Frederick County 4-Hers be given a county 4-H t-shirt?
- Staff thanked efforts to those who worked with Frederick County Public Schools on the excused absence policy for 4-Hers to be able to attend events, competitions, etc. The School Board approved five days and authorized schools' administrators to approve additional requests.
- It was stated that many retail stores have funds to help with community events. Some even look for an event to sponsor and will pay their workers to volunteer at these events.
- Everyone was invited to the 4-H Achievement Program on November 13, 2:00 p.m., at Winchester Church of God Community Center.

Brandon turned the meeting over to Chair Heather McKay.

### **State and Local Budget Updates**

#### **i. VCE Director**

- Dr. Jones has retired but is working part-time to help with the transition.
- Dr. Michael Gutter will begin November 1 as the new VCE Director.
- Dr. Kevin Rice has been hired at the AHS AREC as the Director and Tree Fruit Entomologist.
- The AHS AREC Viticulture Specialist position should open any day.

#### **ii. Vacancies: Frederick County SNAP-Ed Position**

- The posting of the SNAP-Ed position is expected Spring 2023.

### **Vacant ELC Positions: At-Large (Winchester)**

- Attempt at filling this optional At-Large ELC position will take place at a later time.

### **2022 Action Items (Committee Updates)**

#### **- Funding Committee:**

- Work on the staffing and funding needs continues. A staffing letter was brought forward by Supervisor Dunn to the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission. The Commission approved to support the letter and to send it to VCE Administration and to local legislative delegates.
- An ELC member mentioned that there had been a meeting with Delegate Wendy Gooditis who was very attentive to Extension programming and community needs. Delegate Gooditis requested a letter from the ELC regarding the staffing concerns.

#### **- Marketing Committee:**

This committee has not met recently. Some possible meeting dates will be distributed to the committee soon.

### **Programming Update: Elizabeth Baldwin**

Elizabeth gave a review of her educational background bringing her to the ANR Agent position in Page County. She also provided dates of three upcoming programs, two geared towards women in agriculture.

### **Other**

Joanne asked for assistance connecting with local schools.

After discussion, it was decided to change the meeting dates for 2023. Please put the following dates on your calendar:

- February 1 – 12:00 noon, Farm Credit
- May 3 – 6:30 p.m., Frederick County Government Building
- July 26 – 6:30 p.m., Frederick County Government Building
- November 1 – 12:00 noon, Farm Credit

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha G. Wright  
Virginia Cooperative Extension-Frederick County  
Unit Administrative Assistant