

Extension Leadership Council

Frederick County

November 1, 2023

The Frederick County Extension Leadership Council (ELC) met on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at Horizon Farm Credit, Winchester, VA. The following were present: Ray Cross, Sharon Mauzy, Rose McDonald, Heather McKay, Bob Meadows, Kunduck Moon, Dody Stottlemeyer, and VCE Staff: Mark Sutphin, Spring Vasey, Hannah Copp, Joanne Royaltey, Karen Poff, and Marsha Wright.

Heather McKay called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Dody Stottlemeyer made a motion that the July 26, 2023 minutes be approved. Kunduck Moon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

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

- Hannah Copp, our new FCS Extension Agent housed in Frederick County, was introduced.
- One ELC member commented that in talking with individuals she has discovered that more people know about Extension than she thought.
- Staff gave a shout out to the WOW event where ELC members manned an Extension booth. The event is for 8th graders from seven jurisdictions.
- ELC member reported Extension Master Gardeners (EMG) had two successful events:
 1. Garden Fest was held in June and was well attended.
 2. Symposium was held in March. The fees generated go towards scholarships awarded each year, one to each of the five PD7 counties and the City of Winchester.
- Staff reported the Northern Shenandoah Valley Extension Master Gardener Association recently celebrated their 30th Anniversary. In addition to the celebration, they had a special guest speaker who spoke on Native Plants. The event was held at Laurel Ridge Community College and was well attended; participants were able to interact with EMGs. Kudos to Joanne for her efforts on planning this event.

What's Happening in Winchester and Frederick County: No comments.

ELC Positions: Newly Renewed Members and Soon to Expire Terms

- Sharon Mauzy and Bob Meadows were recently reappointed for an additional term, October 2023-2027.
- We have three members whose term will expire in January 2024 (Brandon Monk, Rose McDonald, Ray Cross) and one member whose term expires in April (Grettel Vargas). Mark asked these members to let him know if they are willing to serve another term.

Discussion Around Newly Proposed Idea of a Year-Round Indoor Farmers Market

- ELC members and staff offered comments and discussion.

State and Local Budget Updates

- i. 2023 Situation Analysis:
 - The community awareness/needs assessments are done every five years. It has been broken down into four sections and ELC members and staff have been assigned to a team to work on each section:
 - 1) County demographics/unit profile – Hannah, Jennifer, Rose, Kunduck, Bob
 - 2) Survey data/community perspective – Mark, Tammy, Brandon, JD, Ray
 - 3) Priority issues/needs – Spring, Kim, Joanne, Grettel, Heather, Keighley
 - 4) Editor – Marsha, Dody, Sharon

- December 31 is the deadline for the report to be done.
- We probably won't have updated Ag. Census in time for this report. The last Census was 2017.
- We will also likely be looking at a 5-county approach to work with the other PD7 counties.

ii. Staffing:

- The hiring of the Warren County 4-H Extension Agent is in process.

2023 Action Items (Committee Updates)

i. Funding Committee:

- a) Next step(s) to address positions unfunded by state dollars in the Northern Shenandoah Valley (NSV):

- Page County – Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent (Elizabeth Mullins)
- Warren County – 4-H Youth Development (vacant)
- Shenandoah County – Unit Administrative Assistant (Teresa Richardson)
- Clarke County - Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent (vacant)

- We are waiting to hear what Dr. Gutter's priorities are for the FY25 budget.

- b) Possible 2024 Action Items: None.

ii. Marketing Committee:

- a) Extension Spotlight Event Post November 2023 Elections: Heather reported the committee will need to work on a plan.
- b) Worlds of Work: The committee would like to continue working at this event as well as the Fair.
- c) Possible 2024 Action items:
- Promote programs more: newspaper, adding all ELC members to Frederick's databases, HOA's

2024 Chair/Vice Chair

Please consider availability and willingness to serve as Chair/Vice Chair. If anyone is interested in being Chair or Vice Chair, we will be accepting nominations and voting at the February 7, 2024 meeting.

Other

- Several business suggestions were given for promotion of money management classes.
- Karen Poff is seeking more volunteers to help with the Sherando High School Reality Store program on November 14.
- An ELC member encouraged members to attend the Frederick County Fall Transportation Forum on November 16th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Spring reported on 4-H:
 - The Frederick 4-H Achievement Banquet will be held November 9, and everyone is welcome to attend.
 - She has a new In-School STEM program at Redbud which will be for the entire 5th grade.
 - The Frederick 4-H Shooting Education Club recently received an impact award at the Fall Northwest District Extension Conference.
 - 4-H Summer Camp Counselor applications are being accepted at this time. Individuals must be age 14-18. If anyone knows of an eligible teen, please encourage them to apply.
- Discussion that Frederick County Fair was looking for feedback from this year's fair.
- The proposed 2024 meeting dates were given (see below).

The next meeting will be February 7, 12:00 noon, at Farm Credit.

The meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Wright
Virginia Cooperative Extension-Frederick County
Unit Administrative Assistant

2024 Meeting Dates:

February 7 – 12:00 noon, Farm Credit

May 1 – 6:30 p.m., Frederick County Government Building

August 7 – 6:30 p.m., Frederick County Government Building

November 6 – 12:00 noon, Farm Credit