

Extension Leadership Council *Frederick County*

Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Room - Horizon Farm Credit
125 Prosperity Dr., Winchester, VA 22602

Attendees: ELC Members – Keighley Gore, John Jewell, Dody Stottlemeyer, Heather McKay, Rose McDonald, Sharon Mauzy
VCE – Tammy Epperson, Karen Poff, Marsha Wright, Joanne Royaltey

Keighley Gore, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

John Jewell moved to approve minutes from the August 7, 2024 meeting. Dody Stottlemeyer seconded, and the minutes were approved.

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

- World of Works (WOW):
 - ELC member stated participation in WOW was a good way for Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) to get into the community. Other members who helped with WOW felt it was a great event and wanted to participate in the future.
 - Chairwoman Gore thanked everyone for helping with WOW. She felt the VSU-Virginia agriculture van was well received and kids were more involved/engaged than last year.
 - Discussion followed on proposed changes that the WOW Planning Committee may make.
 - It was suggested that the ELC send a letter to the school committee with feedback and include photos. Keighley Gore and Dody Stottlemeyer will work on this.
- An ELC Member noted concern that when talking to her Board of Supervisor, the Supervisor didn't seem to know much about Virginia Cooperative Extension.

What's Happening in Winchester and Frederick County

- Supervisor John Jewell mentioned Western Land Use policies are being developed as there is concern to save rural land.
- He heard a request that Winchester Schools would like 4-H in their schools.
 - Tammy Epperson, staff, responded that Frederick 4-H offers programs for one of the schools now and is helping Winchester Public Schools pick a school based 4-H program.

State and Local Updates

- Local Vacancies Updates: Karen Poff
 - Frederick County FCS Extension Agent: Amanda Johnson has been hired and is to begin December 10.
 - Family Nutrition Program Assistant-EFNEP & SNAP-Ed: They hire once a year; therefore, the position won't be filled until October 2025.
 - Warren County ANR: Hope to fill Spring 2025.
 - Clarke ANR: Talks about how to fund this position are taking place.
 - In order to fill these vacancies, PD7 counties' share of salary contributions may change slightly along with some additional state fund allocations to the region. With the suggested changes, it is hoped to hire an

ANR agent in Clarke and Warren, provide state funding back to the Page ANR and Warren 4-H positions, and create a Consumer Horticulture Agent position.

Spongy Moth Coordinator Update

County HR is in negotiation with someone for a three-month position. North Mountain was hit the hardest this year.

Landscaping Buffer

- It was suggested to have stronger language when discussing invasive species plants.
- Supervisor John Jewell informed us that farmers do get paid money for solar projects on their farms. There is a bill in session to take control from the local level to state level.

Committee Updates

- Funding Committee: n/a
- Outreach Committee:
 - The committee changed its title from Marketing to Outreach.
 - Extension Spotlight Event: November 13, 2024, 5:30 p.m., in the Frederick County Board Room. The agenda was reviewed. A member said it would be good to present the types of FCS programs that are available vs. highlights of one program only. It's unclear how many Board members know of Extension and what VCE has to offer.

Extension Programming Highlight

- Karen Poff, Senior Extension Agent, Family Financial Management, presented an overview of the various programs she does for the counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren. She also shared individual impacts of her programs and the wide range of clientele she reaches.

Other

The next meeting will be February 5, 12:00 noon, at Horizon Farm Credit. Keighly encouraged everyone to put our meeting dates for 2025 on their calendars now.

Sharon Mauzy made the motion for the meeting to adjourn. Rose McDonald seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Wright
Administrative & Fiscal Assistant

Proposed 2025 Meeting Dates:

- February 5 – 12:00 noon, Farm Credit (VCE Winter In-Service conflict)
- May 7 – 6:30 p.m., Frederick County Government Building
- August 6 – 6:30 p.m., Frederick County Government Building
- November 5 – 12:00 noon, Farm Credit