

Extension Leadership Council

Frederick County

Date: Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: First Floor Conference Room – Frederick County Government Building
107 North Kent Street, Winchester, VA 22601

Attendees: ELC Members – Dody Stottlemeyer, John Jewell, Allison White, Ann Fox, Brandon Monk, Rose McDonald, Heather McKay
VCE – Amanda Johnson, Mark Sutphin, Spring Vasey Ashby, Joanne Royaltey, Marsha Wright, Adam Downing

Brandon Monk, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Dody Stottlemeyer made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2025, meeting. Heather McKay seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

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

- FCS Extension Agent reviewed training and programs she has recently conducted and/or has planned in the near future.
- Frederick County Fair was a good week for everyone, and we had the new 4-H exhibit trailer there for a couple days. Friday night sales total was ~\$480,000. Staff commented on how the community comes out and supports the kids.
- Extension Master Gardeners were educating Lake Frederick's HOA about the type of plants, based on the County's plan, that contractors should be asked to use.
- ELC Member presented additional fair information. Staff thanked her and the Fair Board for all their work throughout the year.
- ELC member shared there are 21 Agriculture teachers in Frederick County's high schools and middle schools. Frederick is leading in Virginia.

What's Happening in Winchester and Frederick County

- ELC Member suggested providing the Realtor Association and the HOA Management Companies for Frederick County with a list of native plants homeowners should use and invasive plants they should avoid using.
- The City of Winchester is doing a Tree Steward Program October 15-November 15. City Arborist is in charge of the program.
- Land use in Frederick County was discussed.

ELC Vacancies

- Due to our Redbud District ELC member resigning after the May meeting, we have a vacancy. Supervisor Dunn will review applications and nominate someone to fill the vacancy.

State and Local Updates

- Current Local Vacancies:

In spite of Federal adjustments, our local operating budget for this year is mostly intact with the support of City of Winchester and the five counties served.

- Frederick SNAP Program Associate position ends with the federal year-end. Staff are talking with Valley Health about a funding/partnership possibility to retain the VCE-Shenandoah County SNAP position. The EFNEP program funding continues.
- Warren County ANR – Animal Science: This position was temporarily put on hold but should be going forward soon.
- Clarke County ANR: This position was temporarily put on hold but should be going forward soon.
- Full-time Consumer Horticulture Agent: This position is in process.

Staff thanked the ELC members for all their efforts over the years in support of filling these positions needed in PD7. ELC member commented that we need to make sure positions continue to be filled so long-term vacancies won't occur again. Annual check-ins/zoom sessions should be conducted.

Committee Updates

- Funding Committee:

- ELC member suggested this committee could be responsible for the annual check-ins/zoom sessions.

- Outreach Committee:

- World of Works: October 2. It will be for 8th graders from City of Winchester and Frederick, Clarke, Warren, Shenandoah, Page, and Rappahannock Counties. Staff doesn't think the 4-H trailer will be available. For handouts, we have career bookmarks. If anyone has ideas, share with staff.
- Event to Educate New Supervisors:
 - * Share ideas with staff:
 - 1- Explanation of split funds
 - 2- Youth agriculture programming (4-H program and FFA)

Extension Programming Highlight

- Adam Downing, District-wide Forestry Agent, spoke to us about his programmatic efforts. He is housed in Madison County and serves 20 counties. Two events coming up are:
 - Fall Field Tour: October 17 in Frederick County
 - Tree Farm Tours: September 29 in Shenandoah County

Other

The next ELC meeting will be November 5, 12:00 noon, at Farm Credit.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Wright
Administrative and Fiscal Assistant

2025 Meeting Dates:

November 5 – 12:00 noon, Farm Credit