

## **Extension Leadership Council**

*Frederick County*

July 26, 2023

The Frederick County Extension Leadership Council (ELC) met on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at the Frederick County Government Center, Winchester, VA. The following were present: Ray Cross, Sharon Mauzy, Heather McKay, Keighley Gore, Dody Stottlemeyer, Grettel Vargas, and VCE Staff: Mark Sutphin, Joanne Royaltey, and Hannah Copp.

Heather McKay called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

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

Ray Cross made a motion that the May 3, 2023 minutes be approved. Sharon Mauzy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

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

- Keighley – Frederick County Fair is next week, and Dr. Gutter will visit Gore’s Edinburg facility on Friday, July 28.

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

- Sharon – Frederick County Homesteaders (Samantha Armel) and Solenberger’s Hardware (Patti Solenberger) would be great partners for food preservation opportunities. Fox Urban Farms is looking for community garden partners and offer seedlings for non-profits.

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

- 2023 Situation Analysis:**
  - Mark stated we are looking for ELC members and staff to team up on the following aspects of the 2023 report:
    - 1) County demographics/unit profile
    - 2) Survey data/community perspective
    - 3) Priority issues/needs
    - 4) Editor (Sharon is interested in helping with editing.)

Members were asked to please notify Mark of what their preference would be to help with putting the report together.

- Mark also offered community survey postcards to hand out at the fair and at other community events and locations. We are accepting surveys through August 31.

- Staffing:**

- Shenandoah County FCS SNAP: A candidate has been identified and will begin sometime Fall 2023
- AHS AREC Viticulture Specialist: Dr. Andrew Harner has been hired and will begin January 2024.

### **2023 Action Items (Committee Updates)**

- Funding Committee:**

Mark is assisting Dennis Morris and VCE-Shenandoah County with the July 28 tour. District Director John Thompson, Senior Associate Director Lonnie Johnson, and VCE Director Mike Gutter will all be attending.

- 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 (Stacy Swain)

- Shenandoah County – Unit Administrative Assistant (Teresa Richardson)
  - Clarke County - Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent (VACANT)
- b) Other 2023 Action Items: None.

ii. Marketing Committee:

- a) Extension Spotlight Event will be held after the November 2023 elections: Thinking February in the Board Room. The ELC asked Mark to check with County Administration regarding the date/time/location.
- b) Other 2023 Action items:
- Joanne to order all ELC members a VCE Volunteer badge
  - Joanne to order t-shirts “Ask Me About Extension”
  - On Saturday, August 5, 4:00-6:00 p.m., they will staff an informational table with 4-H at the Frederick County Fair Show Barn.
  - Connected with NSV 4-H Agents on a career booth at Worlds of Work to be held September 14. (Set up will be September 13 at 3:30 p.m.)
  - Will staff an informational table at Frederick County Homesteaders Crawl on Saturday, September 23, (time and location TBD).

**Other**

Joanne highlighted the NSV Extension Master Gardeners’ 30-year anniversary event: Hometown Habitat being held September 9 at Laurel Ridge Community College.

The next meeting will be November 1, 12:00 noon, at Farm Credit.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Sutphin  
Virginia Cooperative Extension-Frederick County  
Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Unit Coordinator

**2023 Meeting Dates:**

November 1 – 12:00 noon, Farm Credit