

Gila County Extension Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 23, 2013
Fire Hall, Young, Arizona
10:00 AM

Presiding: Clark Richins, Chair

Present: Clark Richins, Dave Cook, Fred Jimenez, Albert Hunt, Lori Brown, Lani Hall, Jim Sprinkle, Juan Arias, Chris Jones, Susan Bolt

Absent: Kenny Evans, Letha Cline, Sabrina Tuttle

The meeting was called to order by Clark Richins, Chair, at 10:09 am. A quorum was present.

Introductions

Each attendee introduced themselves to the new board member, Albert Hunt, who in turn told the group about his background. Albert said that he grew up on ranches, is from the Strawberry/Payson area and is currently working for the Town of Payson in the Street Dept. and is Chair of the N Gila County Fair Board.

1 Approval of Unofficial Meeting Notes on May 14, 2013 & Signing AAP4 & AAP7

Dave Cook made a motion to approve the May 14, 2013 meeting notes and Fred Jimenez made a second to the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Clark Richins signed the AAP forms and Susan Bolt will submit them to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

2 Resignation of Letha Cline, Discussion of New Board Member & Reappointment of Office of Secretary

Susan Bolt told the board that Letha resigned her position and the board accepted her resignation. **After discussion, the board decided that Bob Benne should be contacted first and Mike Hemovich second as a possible new board member.**

Fred Jimenez told Susan Bolt that the board secretary does not need to sign the advisory board bank account signature card. Since this was not necessary and officers will be elected at the next meeting the appointment of a new secretary will be placed on the February meeting agenda.

3 Discussion Regarding Future Meeting Dates and Meeting Formats

After discussion, Lori Brown made a motion to hold two meetings as teleconferences and one meeting as face to face with the face to face meetings rotating between Tonto Basin, Young, Payson and Globe (Young will be last in the rotation since it is most recent) and Albert Hunt made a second to the motion; motion passed unanimously. Susan Bolt agreed to notify the board about the location of the teleconferences.

Discussion about how to attend the teleconferences will for the time being involve going to the County office to use their system.

The next meeting date was determined at the end of the meeting. The next meeting is on 2/19/14 as a teleconference and the May meeting will be at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Superior but no date was set.

4 Regional Reorganization

Jim Sprinkle told the group about the Extension plan “regional reorganization” as outlined in a handout from the Director of Extension, Dr. Silvertooth. Jim Sprinkle said that this plan would occur in phases or stages due to losing 40% of Extension funding since 2008. Extension funding is typically 90% personnel and 10% operations. So far, Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties and Coconino, Mohave and Yavapai Counties combined into one unit each for business functions. The idea is to combine counties under one regional director with a chair over each county. Business officers would be consolidated as well with one over several counties and some agents may become area agents serving two or more counties.

The Advisory Board was provided information on the Arizona Board of Regents Decision Package (see below).

Discussion ensued with Dave Cook proposing that the advisory board meet with supervisors to propose Gila County needs and how this reorganization plan would affect Gila County. Dave also said that state senators and representatives should be contacted as well regarding the crippling effect of the budget cuts.

Recent input from special interest groups like the Gila County Cattle Growers indicated that they wanted to see programs on the ground and not so much on campus. Jim Sprinkle said that Yavapai County Extension is hiring a Family and Consumer Sciences agent that Gila County can benefit from as they would do some FCS programs on Gila County.

Lori Brown wanted to know if Dave Cook was going to the legislators and he said yes. Lori said that she would like to be involved in that so that she could learn how to

do it. Dave said that the county supervisors will probably not be happy with reducing Extension services.

Jim Sprinkle said that Gila County Extension brings in about \$200,000 in grants each year. Dave Cook said that he needs a one sheet handout with bullet points to educate the governor and legislators but he will use it to go to the Gila County Supervisors first. Jim Sprinkle suggested calling it "Because of Cooperative Extension". Lori Brown agreed that facts and figures would help a lot and it was decided to do this **bullet point handout showing 2-3 points for each program area and that the deadline is November 6th.**

5 New U of A Gila County Extension Website Demonstration

Jim Sprinkle informed the group that the website is not functional at this time because it did not carry over information from the old website. He said that it may take until January for all of the information to be re-entered.

6 University of Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) Fiscal Year 2015 General Fund Request & Marketing Cooperative Extension

Jim Sprinkle said that the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) proposed FY 2015 funding increases to the governor and legislative that would include \$3.8 million for UA Cooperative Extension and \$4.2 million for veterinary medical education. This funding could help Extension to function without combining counties.

Jim Sprinkle said that Extension's Centennial is next year and marketing Extension is an important goal. Recent focus group results indicate that we do need to do a better job of marketing Extension.

7 Focus Group Results and Planning ~ Jim Sprinkle

Jim Sprinkle informed the group of the Gila County focus group interests which include forest restoration and thinning, family and parent education, youth mentoring, life skills, and early childhood literacy were big priorities for Gila County.

Now the 15 counties will combine their results/main interests to determine Extension program direction in the future. There will be another mail out survey when these interests are compiled to further refine programming for Arizona. The state-wide survey will be done in late November or early December. Since then, the County Extension Directors decided to send it out in January, 2014.

Fred Jimenez participated in the Gila County focus group and he said the participants considered it a worthwhile exercise to discover the true needs of Gila County residents. Dave Cook also was involved and said there were no disagreements on the

main interests that were defined by the focus group. Albert Hunt was there and confirmed there was consensus. Jim Sprinkle was impressed that it seemed the focus group sought the greater good rather than their personal interests. He further said that Gila County results were similar to Yavapai County results. Jim said that focus group results should impact upcoming Extension hiring.

8 **Agent/Instructional Specialist, Sr. Oral Reports**

Chris Jones told about the Arizona Highlands Garden Conference, which had 100 attendees. The main speaker was Peter Ellsworth, U of A Maricopa Ag Center, who gave a very good presentation on GMO's. Chris said that the main challenge and success story of the conference was the restoration of Bullion Plaza gym where the conference was going to be held. \$430,000 in grants restored the gym and made it into a place where meetings and conferences can occur. The Master Gardeners also put in a garden on this site. The conference went beyond the success it enjoyed to greatly benefit the community and this is a testimony to the power of Extension programming.

Juan Arias told the group about the raised bed gardens for First Things First programs as follows:

Grow it, Try it, Like it Curriculum

Health and Nutrition theme around a garden

- 2 Child centers participating (apache kids)
- 2 home group locations (youth home and Home group1)
- Locations for implementation for winter gardening
- 4 Head start centers
- 2 child care centers (Child readiness program)

Family Book Bag

Improves literacy interaction and nutrition enrichment activities for children

- 2 child care centers participated (Apache Kids)
- 4 Head start centers participated
- 1 one home group (youth Home)
- Participating this year:
 - 2 child care centers (child Readiness)
 - 1 home group center (home Group)
 - 1 Rice elementary special ed

Color Me Healthy

Incorporates nutrition, creativity and physical activities in the classroom or at home to improve the health of children.

- 4 child care centers (Apache kids and child readiness)
- 2 Home groups (youth home and Home group 1)
- 1 Rice elementary Special ed

For implementation:
4 Head Start Centers

Family Style Meals

Encourages family time, group time motivates family/ teachers to be more involved in what children eat and brings healthier social eating behaviors

1 home group (Youth Home)
2 child care centers (Apache Kids)

For implementation:

2 child care centers (Child readiness)
1 Home group (home group 1)

Lani Hall said that the May, 2013 Tween Camp at Roosevelt Lake was greatly enjoyed by camp attendees. Future camps may be held at Camp Tontozona or Wood's Canyon. The September fairs were very successful with more animals being shown in the Globe fair auction which garnered \$180,000 for 4-H youth participants. The 4-H Centennial was held at the Maricopa Ag Center with 500-600 people in attendance. Gila County 4-H had four leaders in the Hall of Fame.

Lani told about records books being due in Globe on 11/15/13 and that unusual but important life skills are being taught in 4-H clubs this year such as cooking, sewing and auto maintenance. There are two new shooting sports leaders receiving training, which is good because archery is so popular.

The 4-H Clover sponsor, Tractor Supply, raised \$1,000 that goes directly to 4-H clubs. The SNAP-ED program is approved for 2014 and it serves Kindergarten through 8th grade as well as adults. Now Londa Ortega and Teri James will be full time for this program. Ag Awareness classes are ongoing in the Globe/Miami schools right now and recycling has been added as a topic. The Ag Awareness field days will be on 11/20 & 21/13. On December 13th Lani will conduct the Launch into Life program for high school students and the topics taught career, financial and life skills.

Jim Sprinkle talked about the award given by the Western Extension Director for the Range Monitoring program in July, 2013. Jim received \$1,000 award from state Extension and he is using it for data entry. He also told about three grants for range monitoring that Gila County Cattle Growers helped initiate: Tonto National Forest Service \$25,000; NRCS \$25,000; and Public Lands Council (PLC) \$50,000. These grants will fund data collection and entry for 2016 NEPA ranches. The government shutdown shut down the process of funding these grants.

Jim said that he conducted a range monitoring workshop in Young, AZ in September.

Jim Sprinkle asked the group to give input on whom to invite to a future visit from U of A President Hart. Some suggestions were advisory board members, 4-H leaders-donors, GCCG president, representative from each mine, focus group members, chamber of commerce, San Carlos tribal chair and general manager, town mayors, board of supervisors and local legislators.

9 Board Reports

Fred Jimenez reported that he got the bank account signature card done, there is a balance of \$815.54 and he can process travel reimbursements now.

Dave Cook talked about dealing with range monitoring grants.

Clark Richins reported that it has been dry and rain spotty. Clark commented that Sabrina's community garden program is ongoing at the Detention Center but at a standstill at the tree farm because pumps are needed for the wells.

10 Future Topics/Field Trips for Advisory Board Meetings

Dave Cook made several suggestions about field trips such as visiting the arboretum, visiting the Greer fire area at Timber Line Ranch, San Carlos area showing how fires affected logging, Fossil Creek, Grand Canyon Train Tour, and the U of A Meat Lab

A motion was made by Dave Cook to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 12:30 pm and Albert Hunt made a second to the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Bolt
Administrative Associate