

St. Martin Parish Overall Advisory Committee Meeting
March 5, 2012

Alfred Guidry, Parish Chairman conducted the meeting. Participants included: Mavis Landry, Elsie Castille, Barbara Bird, St. Martin Parish Volunteers for Family & Community, Daniel Richard, Grain Crop Farmer, Jeff Broussard & Curry Albert, Soil and water Conservation Board and Sugarcane Members, John Girard, Farmer & NRCS Board member, Mike Comb, LSUCA – Sugar Mill President, Theresa Matthews, Farm Service Agency, St. Martin Staff members: Alfred Guidry, Hope Guidry, Laura Brumbaugh, Jan Coussan and Deborah Cormier.

A power point presentation was presented explaining the LSU AgCenter Business Plan and possible effects on services. Feedback on the proposed plan and suggestions for ways that the AgCenter can secure funding level that can be counted on each year was discussed.

Changes in ANR, FCS and 4-H areas noticed and commented on were less staff people particularly in ANR, FCS and secretarial support .

Changes in ANR, FCS and 4-H areas that people anticipate as a result of the business plan were possible reduction in current staff; reduction in programs and services due to a lower staff; more use of internet to reach more people due to lower expense accounts.

Possible sustainable funding streams identified to sustain local programming and offset further budget cuts discussed were:

- Charging service fees
- Hold fund raisers such as bingo, fishing rodeo, cook-offs, etc.-
- Charge entry fees for 4-H contest, Field Days and other public meetings
- Charge fees for bulletins
- Charge a fee for the LSU AgCenter on hunting and fishing licenses.
- Legislative would place a fee on grain elevators, sugar mills, etc. that would be dedicated to the LSU AgCenter.
- Charge clients a fee for consultations
- Establish a Foundation for parish and monies remain in parish for local use.

General comments received from meeting participants were:

- Continue present programs in ANR, 4-H and FCS.
- Use Volunteers.
- Keep local government informed on budget situation.