MSUE Leadership Council of Wayne County Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2017

Attendance: Meng Chan, Michelle Varran, Tyler Guenette, Michael Reed, Julie Walker, Lisa Rogers, Deborah Stewart Anderson and Stacy Johnson

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting started with member introductions and each member explained how they became involved in the Council.

Binders:

Binders were distributed with By-laws, members contact information, map of Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) District offices, organizational chart of the Director’s Office Administrative Leadership, brochure of MSUE programs, Snapshot of Wayne County, Focus on Detroit article, Citizen Participation article, Tips for meeting with your legislators, FAQs for local government-related inquires, List of the Wayne County Commissioners, List of Wayne County House/Senate Representatives and a staff listing of MSUE employees.

Update from the State Council:

Julie discussed in February of 2017, the State Council Meeting was held in Lansing, MI for two days and she met some of the MSUE leadership (the new Dean). There were presentations on vegetables, the cherry industry and she talked to Legislators. Julie discussed how our district is very urban and how at the State Council meeting, people from other areas of the state talked about agriculture. She gave the example, someone from Frankenmuth gave a report about the new Ag Bio Research facility; someone from District 1 spoke of cherries and someone from Traverse City talked about cherries. At the State Council meeting Julie spoke about the Master Gardeners and beautification of cities in Wayne County.

Update from visit to Lansing:

Members met at Tollgate and then drove to Lansing. Appointments were made with legislators and senators ahead of time. Meng mentioned the purpose of visiting the representatives was for them to be able to put a face with Extension, especially during times when Extension may need the legislators to advocate on Extension’s behalf for budgetary purposes. It was mentioned that during the visit to Lansing, MSUE’s budget was due. The members also wanted the legislators to know the value of the programs offered and how the programs help to change people’s lives in the communities MSUE serves. The legislatures were given literature.
about Extension. Michelle stated she had two appointments and one appointment was with a Sterling Heights senator who wrote back and asked her to keep in touch.

Review annual report:

The annual report was reviewed and it was mentioned the report can be used as a talking point.

Review goals and designate responsibilities:

a. **Maintain list of Legislatures and which ones have been contacted**

   Tyler Guenette is responsible for creating a Google Docs file and giving everyone access. The listing of Legislatures and who has been contacted will be maintained via Google Docs which is an application that allows everyone to see the same document and everyone can make changes/updates to the document as well as view the latest updates made by members.

   Stacy Johnson is responsible for listing the cities/mayors in Google Docs.

b. **Contact local government officials**

   **Compose letter of introduction**

   Meng Chan will compose the template for a letter of introduction to local government officials and distribute the template to all members. Each member will send letters with their business card (if they have them) to local officials.

   **Divide listing of Wayne County cities**

   Each member received a listing of Wayne County cities and divided the listing amongst the members present. The remaining cities will be divided amongst the members who were not present at the meeting.

   *Mike Reid* – Detroit, Gross Pointe, Gross Pointe Woods, Gross Pointe Park and Gross Pointe Farms

   *Michelle Varran* – Livonia, Canton, Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth and Plymouth Township

   *Tyler Guenette* – Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City and Inkster

   *Lisa Rogers* – Taylor, Allen Park, Van Buren Township and Belleville

   *Meng Chan* – Rockwood, Gibraltar, River Rouge and Westland
Deborah Stewart Anderson – Hamtramck, Highland Park, Harper Woods and Ecorse

Julie Walker – Brownstown Township, Southgate, Wyandotte and Flat Rock

Christine Rohn (not present, Julie assigned her cities) – Romulus, Sumpter, New Boston and Wayne

c. Determine and delegate focus area

Members divided program areas of MSUE based upon the programs listed in the brochure. In future meetings, members will provide an update on the program area they chose.

Mike – SeaGrant and Natural Resources
Julie – Horticulture and Agriculture
Michelle – Community Development and Agriculture
Deborah – Lawn & Garden, Community Food Systems and Nutrition
Meng – Business Development and Nutrition
Lolita (program area given by members) - Housing

Other business:

Michelle also shared about some of the programs Extension offered, like Anger Management and Master Gardener classes. A success story of a client of MSUE’s was shared about a person keeping a thermometer in the refrigerator due to a nutrition class the person attended.

The purpose of this group which is to promote MSUE was shared and how MSUE’s employees have presented at the manager meetings of the Health Department to discuss specific program areas. It was shared that MSUE has webinars that people can participate in and people can learn how to live a better life, learn about nutrition, budgeting and finance amongst other areas and how MSUE offers a lot of value for free that people can take advantage of to make better choices in their lives.

Open discussion:

Meng mentioned that the Plymouth Fall Festival is coming up and if MSUE is not already scheduled for the event, someone should go to represent. See link for more information. [http://plymouthfallfestival.com/](http://plymouthfallfestival.com/)

Stacy will put together an upcoming events calendar of programs that MSUE staff is scheduled to attend and distribute to Council members.
Deborah Stewart Anderson would like for Ed Scott to come out and talk to the Impact Detroit Group.

There was discussion about the next meeting being held at the MSU Community Music School located at 3408 Woodward, Detroit, MI  48201

Next Meeting Date:

July 12, 2017 – 6:00 pm  (confirmation of location will be sent ahead of time)