

Davidson County
UT-TSU Agricultural Extension Board Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2018

The Davidson County UT-TSU Agricultural Extension Board met on Thursday, August 16, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. at the Davidson County Extension Office, Metro Southeast Bldg., at 1417 Murfreesboro Pike, second floor.

Members Present: Mr. Mark Kerske, Chair, Dr. Thelma Sanders-Hunter, Ms. Sylvia Ganier, Mr. Bobby Edwards

Members Absent: Mr. Will Nesby, Ms. Sherri Smith, Mr. Ed Smith

Mark Kerske called the meeting to order. A quorum was present for the transaction of business.

Mr. Kerske welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their time.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: The minutes were sent to the board members before the meeting for an opportunity to review. A motion was made by Sylvia Ganier and seconded by Bobby Edwards to approve the minutes as written. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Officer Report: Mr. Kerske gave an update on the upcoming Tennessee State Fair, which will be held at the Nashville Fairgrounds from September 7-16. UT-TSU Extension Agents assist with many activities and events during the fair, including the Agriculture Building, Master Gardener exhibit, agent educational exhibits, 4-H events, and the 4-H Butterfly exhibit. Michael Barry also mentioned that the 4-H Butterfly exhibit serves as a fundraiser for 4-H program. Mr. Kerske encouraged the board members to attend the Tennessee State Fair to support the UT-TSU Extension efforts there. Michael Barry stated that he would get admission passes for the board members to attend.

Old Business: Mark Kerske called on Mr. Barry to address the budget. He addressed the group that the true-up budget processed showed that there is an \$8,700 (2.6%) projected savings in the FY19 budget. The projected savings money cannot be used during FY19.

Mr. Barry then gave an update on current staffing at the Agricultural Extension Office. He reported that since the last board meeting in June, the office has filled the position of Administrative Assistant. Ms. Amy McAllister will begin employment on August 20, 2018.

Mr. Barry shared with the Board the quarterly reports for the period April-June 2018. The Board was asked to review these data and if questions, be ready to discuss them at the next meeting. Sylvia Ganier in discussion asked, if it was possible to distribute the quarterly reports electronically and have a hyperlink included to individual programs, so everyone could learn about the staff's programs mentioned in the quarterly reports. Mr. Barry stated that he would discuss this with the staff at the next office conference and determine the feasibility of this. He thanked Ms. Ganier for the idea to help educate more about the different programs.

New Business: Mr. Kerske brought to the attention of the board that Allison Koon who resigned from the UT-TSU Extension office in June was also serving as the Secretary for the Ag Board. After discussion among the members, the motion was made by Sylvia Ganier and seconded by Dr. Thelma Sanders-Hunter to

appoint Amy McAllister as the Secretary of the Agricultural Extension Board. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion of upcoming UT-TSU Extension programs. Mark Kerske asked the Extension Agents who were in attendance to give an update about their programs. Those in attendance who gave updates included: David Cook and Dan Harrell. They both informed the board about the National Urban Extension Leaders Conference which was earlier in the week in Chattanooga. David Cook presented a breakout session and Andy Lantz presented a poster session. There were 96 participants from 11 states at the conference to discuss issues and solutions for topics in Urban Extension. A new educational program on opioid abuse prevention was introduced at the conference. The 1890 institutions will be leading the efforts on this program. In Tennessee, Tennessee State University in the 1890 program. Therefore, Davidson County TSU Agents will be involved in the opioid abuse prevention education program. Dan Harrell provided an update on the TSU Urban Agriculture Conference and Tour from July 18. The Davidson County office assisted in the program for this event. Dr. Thelma Sanders-Hunter asked if there were still educational programs being offered by Extension in correctional facilities. Mr. Cook and Mr. Harrell addressed the question by stating that our office assists not only the Davidson County Sheriff's office in the Inmate Garden / Horticulture education program, but also assists the State of Tennessee in educational programs and assistance with some of their agriculture education and farming programs as well. David Cook also mentioned that he is assisting Andy Lantz with the 4-H forestry judging team training. Dan Harrell shared with the group about the ongoing requests for assistance with school gardens in terms of organization and educational programs. He mentioned that he made a visit to Goodlettsville Elementary to help organize their efforts in a joint program with the library near the school. Dr. Sanders-Hunter asked about the use of volunteers in the programs. David Cook replied that volunteers are used in several programs, especially Master Gardeners. He spoke about the Master Gardener speaker's bureau and that they speak at several Metro Libraries, among other places.

Mr. Barry shared with the Ag Board copies of the recently released "Contribution of Agriculture to the Davidson County Economy" report which was produced by the University of Tennessee Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Mr. Barry mentioned that a study was conducted on each county in Tennessee to show the economic impact, including production agriculture as well as agricultural processing. Mr. Barry thanked Rachel Stinson for compiling each county's numbers in a spreadsheet which revealed that Davidson County is the second largest Agricultural Economic important county in Tennessee, trailing only Shelby County. Individual numbers for Davidson County show that direct agricultural output is estimated at \$4.4 billion annually. With multiplier effects, agricultural output has a total estimated economic impact of \$6.2 billion annually in Davidson County. There are 8,116 workers employed in county agriculture. With multiplier effects, an estimated 19,401 jobs are generated by county agriculture, or one direct agricultural job leads to 2.39 jobs in the county. Mr. Barry stated that he would be sharing the study results with stakeholders, including the Mayor's office and Metro Council.

Board Discussion:

There were multiple occasions during the board meeting that discussion had to pause due to the noise from the heavy rain which was falling on the roof. The board members voiced their concern about not being able to hear one another. Mr. Barry also expressed his concern about the ability of the staff to effectively communicate with each other and clients during heavy rain and some instances of airplane traffic. This is due to the location of the office on the 2nd floor of a warehouse type structure. Mr. Edwards then asked what the status was of the Extension office relocation. Mr. Barry replied that the request is still in the Metro Capital Improvement Budget, but it has not been funded. The board members asked what

they could do to help the process move forward. Mr. Barry replied that the request has to be funded from the CIB before it can move forward.

Dr. Thelma Sanders-Hunter asked was the length of the current term on the board. Mr. Kerske replied that her term ended August, 2020.

Close/Adjourn: The date for the next Board meeting was decided. It will be on Tuesday, December 18th, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the Agricultural Extension office or the board may meet at the Nashville Farmers Market. Sylvia Ganier is going to inquire about the possibility of meeting at the Farmers Market.

A motion was made by Sylvia Ganier and seconded by Dr. Thelma Sanders-Hunter to adjourn. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.