

Monday, February 2nd , 2026 1:00 PM
Ag Extension Office, 2nd Floor
1281 Murfreesboro Pike

Members Present: Mr. Jeffrey Ezell, Ms. Gigi Drumright, Ms. Barbara Devaney via Zoom, Jim Barnes and Ms. Joan Clayton-Davis

Open-call to order- Ms. Devaney called the meeting to order as there was a quorum. Ms. Clayton-Davis made a motion and Mr. Ezell seconded.

Reading and approval of previous minutes- Barbara Devaney

Motion to read the minutes- Mr. Barnes seconds.

Joan Clayton-Davis right motions to approve minutes, Gigi Drumright seconds

Quorum voted to approve minutes.

Officer Report- Jeffrey Ezell, Barbara Devaney and Gigi Drumright are attending via Zoom due to the freezing weather conditions.

Staff Update- Andy shares that Hannah Decker resigned her position as the TSU 4-H agent. The only 100% 4-H agent position is currently vacant. TSU said the position is in HR and will be put up for a month. He is looking at May as the current start date. The EFNEP TSU program assistant position is still available and just needs to be approved. We will be having a grad student intern named Jordan Elsworth and is with University of New England. She is in dietetics and will work with Melissa and Alexis. She will create her own individual program between March and April.

Metro Update- The hope is to have 7 members for the ag board meetings. Jim and Joan have put in as renewal. The mayor's office legal team is hoping to reconcile before they appoint or renew members. Unsure of how long it might take from Metro. The hope is two members that are on the city council can serve on the board, which seems unlikely to do. For the time being we will keep the 5 members format and will wait until metro passes until we can move forward. Metro and the state both have 7 members but Davidson is unique being an urban county. Every two years in January metro council will need to vote for approval. Andy is currently talking to what metro council brings up named Tom Wilson and will give guidance if this is brought before metro council. Jeffrey brings up that the two open spots could be filled with two members that are not metro council members. The clerk's office is not certifying anything until it gets guidance from metro council.

Budget Update- Andy shares the Ag Extension FY26 Budget. He shares the metro 4-H program assistant position he hopes to create and the budget that will be with that opening. He hopes the person can be bilingual and share what extension does with families. Andy can share key talking points about it. Amy and Andy are working on how to better word the position and what the impact will be to the mayor's office.

New Business- This upcoming month we will have an open Master Gardener class. The first meeting is tomorrow. February 24th at 9:30-10:30am will be a Master Gardener class for the Ag Board. After a half hour everyone can debrief. The Master Gardener class is administered

through a state level. They don't recommend offering more than one class. The retention rate was not the same when offered more than once. Amy hopes to offer another class that doesn't demand all the volunteer demand. The new newsletter summarizes what all we do in a one-page document. We hope this helps everyone and get it posted on our website. Forest Hills has an office that is open as a community center if anybody is looking for a venue. In December the TN Wildlife and Conservation met. Jim Barnes ask several stakeholders to attend and thanked Andy came to speak. Jim talks about the goals of the meeting.

Extension Program Updates:

Charslyn Guilyot

- Her group at "Operation Standown" has been postponed due to the weather. She has been with her groups at Meharry and Southeast Addiction teaching the EFNEP curriculum. She got a referral to do the "Welcome Home" series and doing the "Eating Smart at Home" and "Move More" curriculum.

Alexis Trice

- She will be dining with diabetes with a senior tower on Tuesdays of this month. She is hoping to work with "We Are One" recovery and it is a nourish recovery grant. She completed "Healthy Heart" ambassador certification training with Melissa. She will be helping out as a volunteer for the 4-H camp. In January conducted a program at Mending Hearts. A flyer will be sent out about the Boards and Bites class.

Amy Dunlap

- She did the TN Landscape short course for 2 days and had over 200 people attended. Master Gardener starts tomorrow. She has 37 people signed up for it and Amy is open to anybody wanting to host. Only one-person last year did not get certified. It will be in the morning and if you would like showcase your program reach out to Amy.

Melissa Standley

- She has 3 people signed up on Boards and Bites at Greendoor Gourmet with Alexis and Shana. The course will learn about food pairing and how meat & cheese are processed. She is working with Center Well and it is a primary senior care group. She is working with cooking for one or two seniors in Bellevue. She is waiting to hear back from the Salvation Army. In April she will be presenting in Cheatham County about "Eating Well and Living Well" program.

Shana Los

- She had success with Horse Club and one doing well on the Hippology test. Currently has 5 Master Farm Managers signed up. The program teaches the business side of farming. Between the 4 counties there are 40-45 people signed up. She is meeting with Gabe from TSU to help broadcast our social channels. Chick Chain order forms are due next week and has 4 kids signed up. Companion Animals is postponed to this month and horse club may be postponed tonight due to the freezing weather. Shana had a volunteer sign up to help out. She will be presenting a poster out in Colorado.

Andy Lantz

- Has two kids signed up to go to congress to learn about how a government works here and the delegation. The public speaking contest went well and had the 8 counties out in Wilson County. There were 9 that went on to the sub regional contest. One high schooler is going to the regional contest. He has been busy marketing 4-H camp. It is June 1st-5th. The poster art contest is wrapping up and have to be finished by next week. Monday will be the voting for the top 15 posters in digital art and paper posters that will go to the Nashville Fair. Anybody is welcome to come in and see the posters and be a judge. The Clover Bowl and Wildlife Club will happen this spring. The demonstration contest will be in April about skill they know how to do. Anybody is welcome to be a judge.

Adjourn

- The next meeting will be May 4th 2026 at 1pm at The Davidson County Extension Office. Barbara Devaney calls for a motion to close the meeting. Joan Clayton-Davis made the motion to dismiss- Jim Barnes seconds- Meeting dismissed.