North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
State Advisory Council Meeting  
October 28-30th, 2008 Meeting Minutes  
Watauga County, Boone, N.C.

Tuesday, October 28th, 2008 Total Attendance (23)
North Carolina Cooperative Extension State Advisory Council Members in attendance: (25)
Steva Allgood, Ireni Autry, Charles Boyd, Sam Brake, Josh Bridges, Connie Buckner, Joey Bullock, Sue Glovier, Marshall Grant, Ron Joyner, Jackie Lewis, Mary Ann Lumpkins, Pete Miller, Chuck Moseley, Jack Parker, George Quigley, John Schnautz, B.A. Smith, Jo Ann Stroud, Shelly Willingham, Lynn Yokley, Ralph Warren, Rebecca Jones  
NC A&T (3)  
Dr. M. Ray McKinnie, Celvia Stovall, Ellen Smoak  
NCSU Administration and Staff in attendance: (5)  
Joy Staton, Dr. Jon Ort, Dr. Harvey Fouts, Sue Counts, Pam Dickson

Welcome and Introductions:

B. A. Smith opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.  B.A. announced that Mac Baldwin has been selected as the 2008 North Carolina winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award and was NC’s finalist for the Southeast award along with nine others from neighboring states.

Marshall Grant received an honor for being an outstanding cotton farmer in the southeast for involvement in boll weevil eradication in the United States. He was recently honored for 35 years of service to boll weevil eradication.

Sam Brake discussed a grant Canola Growers have been awarded for bio-diesel – USDA grant to do a feasibility study and business plan.

B.A. remarked that we were happy to be in the western part of NC.  B.A. introduced Dr. Harvey Fouts and gave us a little on his background.  Dr. Fouts welcomed us to the west district.  Watauga is a stellar county for Cooperative Extension.  Sue Counts is the county director and will be retiring from service this week.  Harvey will give us an update tomorrow morning on the district.  Dr. Ellen Smoak from A&T who is the western regional coordinator for A&T program also welcomed us to Watauga where she spends a lot of her time.

B.A. Smith introduced Sue Counts – County Director from Watauga County.  Sue welcomed us all to Boone.  Sue has completed her term on the Boone area Chamber of Commerce and they have extended us the hand of hospitality.  Sue talked of the benefits of being in a University town - popular tourist destination - regarded as the brightest star in the Blue Ridge mountain area.  Appalachian State University contributes to the local economy and Boone is one of the best college towns in America.  Watauga has one of the most progressive school systems.  All eight schools have a rank of excellence.  Safe and friendly neighborhoods, shopping - there is something for everyone in Watauga.  It is also the land where Christmas trees grow.  Watauga means whispering waters (Cherokee nation).

Dr. Ort and Dr. Fouts presented Sue with a gift for her retirement.

B.A. Smith introduced Dr. Winston Kinsey.  County Commissioner from Watauga - up for reelection, unchallenged, Dr. Winston Kinsey talked about his background with agriculture.  Dr. Kinsey grew up in Texas and went to farm schools.  Enjoyed growing up on a farm – in FFA and 4-H.  Wanted to be a farmer but realized he could only be a part time farmer.  Has a PHD in history from Texas Tech.  At ASU he always taught 2 courses in African History, 2 courses in World Civics and always taught agriculture and the history of agriculture.  Dr. Kinsey has a lot of interest in agriculture in western N.C.  He has a small farm – sheep, horses, and cows.  Dr. Kinsey said that the records of Cooperative Extension are best records for researching the history of agriculture.  About 1905 Cooperative Extension began and grew from there.  Extension started in North Carolina and Alabama before the Smith Lever Act.  Dr. Seaman Knapp was very important in the start up.  Dr. Kinsey gave us the historical
background of Cooperative Extension in North Carolina. He talked about the first agent he knew in Watauga County. Watauga didn’t have an agency until 1930. Work in the county started in 1930 and burley tobacco started then in Watauga. Cooperative Extension is now located in the old kraut factory in Watauga – built in 1917. Without county participation, Cooperative Extension would not exist - need the County Commissioners and County managers to be involved and interested.

**Administrative Update: Dr. McKinnie and Dr. Ort - dialogue and discussion.**

Dr. Ort addressed the critical issue of budgets. He opened up the floor for questions from the SAC members. Jackie Lewis asked about programming. Dr. Ort replied we are a high touch organization – issues-based and people to people because of the community capacity with agents in counties from NCSU and A&T. Programmatically – Dr. Ort is very proud that we are more than agriculture and traditional programs – we are dealing with tomorrow’s future and tomorrow’s leaders through our youth programs. We are teaching them how to live healthier and happier lives. Extension is integrating new programs into the core mission, life, land and economy. Dr. McKinnie emphasized we are a partnership – tradition of mission, continuing to provide university outreach and engagement.

**Dr. Ort** expressed his concerns in these terms; being on bus and driving the bus, renting bus, owning bus – being asked to get off for a second and being left. When necessary we need to make sure our flag is being raised with everyone else’s (including A&T). There have been a few instances where A&T and NC State haven’t been given credit for that. Those present at the UNC tomorrow listening tours heard accolades for Cooperative Extension and Dr. Ort wants to make sure that all the counties that put time, money and energy receive credit – what they deserve. As Advisory Leaders – your ears and eyes need to be attuned to that and make sure you applaud that and make sure the faculty at NC State and NC A&T are recognized.

**John Schnautz** asked Dr. Ort to comment on the present status of STEM. STEM initiative is a way to educate young people in science, technology, engineering and math and incorporate those into our curriculum and look at how we can integrate those initiatives into 4-H. There have been several initiatives written for 4-H. 4-H authored an expansion budget request and it was for recurring funding which would hire staff and operating dollars to help develop a core program at NCSU. Recurrent funding never took place. Funding was divided – majority went to education and we only received a little bit of funding – went to one faculty member in 4-H – we can’t hire people with the funding we got because it was not recurring.

**Shelly** – Economic situation, concerned about things that would happen in county. Question came up – in view of economic situation – what do you see as the immediate effect on Extension? Dr. Ort had a 3 page memo that went out this morning to all Department heads and also went to Dr. Joe Zublena re: budget news. Perspective – my tenure at NC State has never seen a worse budget because so many things are happening at once. There is nothing in the budget that isn’t impacted. Numbers – Start with beginning of year - we had economic 3 year plan to shift 2 ½ million dollars – closed positions to operate over 3 years. We had made progress – 2/3 of the way shifting money. Moving into this fiscal year underwater but nothing we hadn’t seen before. All districts had made shift of a million dollars. Had $710,000 reduction – result of flexibility reduction initiated by state, second year of PACE reduction, Service charge increase and then a match of Federal dollars for employees increases. Of 710,000 - 510,000 was lost permanently. Start cuts now. Governor initiates 2% reduction – 842,000 at one time. Downtown says it needs to be another 1% by turn of year. In the meantime president’s office says we’re holding 4% in escrow – plan for 4% - plan for non-recurring but could be recurring. While this is going on, Federal lobbying group finds out 3 D funding and IPM funding is no longer formula funding. It has been changed to competitive funding. Cooperative Extension has to ask people to leave or find other funding to put them on. Banking industry has gone up in flames – retirement savings – 501 C foundations – of 600 accounts, 150 have less money in now than when they started. Federal govt. – does not pass budget until March 6th. State dollars which you would turn to are being held in escrow. 4% cut becoming permanent and adding another 4% by June. What Dr. Ort fears most is vertical cuts - which means taking out whole programs. Dr. Ort does not want or plan to do that. Jack Parker who works for foundation remarked that it is a serious problem. There is a possibility that second cut won’t come through – but we need to know the facts.

**Dr. Ort** had done minimum in terms of letters that have been circulated. 8% cut has been increased from 8 to 10% until 2010. Positions in counties will have to be held over – all across the board across the state.
Pete Miller asked about 4-H funds. All 4-H funds received in 07-08 have been spent. 7 ½ mill in 07– all but 55,000 has been spent – 4 million received in 08-09 is being held – not spent.

Ron Joyner asked honest assessment of effect on SAC – how do you prioritize SAC. Dr. Ort’s opinion – is as high in priority as it has ever been. Make sure whenever you have an opportunity or chance to speak about mission of Cooperative Extension and what the people of Cooperative Extension do that you are there for us. Dr. Ort says we will work to make layoffs the last resort. We need unpaid voices (volunteers) especially now.

Shelly – says situation we are in today – points to fact that we as volunteers have to do as good a job explaining to legislators as we do explaining our programs in counties. Make sure that those in the legislature understand the importance of Extension and that it is the basis of everything we do.

Dr Ort says we need to keep in mind what is happening to citizens around us. If there was ever a time that people needed help with finances it is now. Now is an opportunity even though we are struggling. We have to look for new opportunities and step up to the plate with core programs and help those that need our help.

Dr. McKinnie said that through all of this we will emerge a better organization. Dr. McKinnie attended a Michigan conference and said the news there is not better. Michigan has had to deal with this for the last 5 years. This is all across the country with land grant universities. Everyone is being affected.

Dr. McKinnie stated that A&T will only refill essential positions – no expansions in positions at this point. We are trying to hold on to what we have. 1st place in reductions is any vacancies we have.

B. A. Smith thanked Dr. Ort and Dr. McKinnie. B.A. Smith introduced Rebecca Jones and asked her to tell us a little about herself. She is a senior at ASU – was in 4-H for 14 or 15 years. Rebecca is the student representative for SAC. Last year Rebecca produced a 10 minute documentary that was chosen as a national 2nd place winner about NC 4-H. She thought this would be a great way to spread the word about 4-H. Rebecca interviewed about 14 people including Dr. Stewart, Elaine Marshall, Mary Ruth Sheets (has probably been involved about 60 years in Davidson County) and her parents who met in 4-H and several others. Rebecca showed us the documentary. B. A. Smith thanked Rebecca for her presentation.

B.A. introduced new member – Jim Parlier. Jim introduced himself to the group. Jim is from Yancey County and has been part of the Advisory Council there for about 12 years. Jim said they are doing great things in Cooperative Extension in Yancey County.

B. A. Smith asked Jackie Lewis to come up and speak about 4-H drop-out prevention. Jackie Lewis spoke about the 4-H event held in Raleigh. The Advisory Council talked about the problem with drop outs in NC and perhaps 4-H could assist in dropout prevention with a new 4-H module. Jackie would like those in the Advisory Council who are interested in promoting this program to come back after dinner and brainstorm to see if we can bridge to assist with this program of dropout prevention.

B.A. Smith asked the group who attended 4-H citizenship focus in June to come up to report. June 16th – 18th. Part of leadership training for 4-H. Great group of 4-Hers. SAC assigned to visit state legislators while 4-H was in their sessions. SAC members visited several legislators.

Pete Miller – 3rd time to attend. Very mature young people, best thing for SAC is to get a chance to talk to young people and go to general assembly and speak to legislators.

Ralph Warren – huge cooperative effort to join forces to see legislators. Ralph had an appointment with the Speaker of the house.

Jo Ann Stroud – spoke to everyone she and Pete saw at the general assembly. Breakfast with 4-Hers was very impressive.

Charles Boyd – 1st trip – Joe Sam Queen – went to legislature to meet him and thanked him for all the things he had done for Extension.

George Quigley – feeds off energy of young people - contacted several legislators.

Jack Parker – spent breakfast with Senators and Representatives at 4-H breakfast. Senator John Carr got a leadership award because he had been a 4-Her. When it was over Jack went to congratulate him – asked him if he played football and asked Jack if he played for Rich Square which Jack had.
Chairman Smith talked about the dedication of the research campus in Kannapolis which he along with others had attended. There is a strong probability we will be there in near future for a SAC meeting.

B. A. Smith talked about Clemson Extension meeting in Charleston. B.A. introduced our next speaker, Mr. Jesse Eargle, Clemson Assistant to the Vice-President. Jesse Eargle has been in Cooperative Extension as an administrator – retired in 2003. He was asked to come back and work on special projects. Clemson administration wanted him to reorganize the State Extension Advisory Council. Fran Wolak took over and wanted to reorganize. He looked at 19 different SAC councils across the country – saw good, bad and ugly and took all the good things and incorporated it into their Advisory Council. They got a lot of good ideas from North Carolina. Clemson is a joint council with South Carolina State University. The Governor of South Carolina and the executive budget recommended a 42% decrease to Cooperative Extension in South Carolina. Through efforts of reorganized SAC we were able to change decrease to a 6% decrease which was a big victory. Since then SAC and constituency group has been responsible for building back people lost in the 90’s and has reorganized county advisory Councils on the model of the state advisory council. Counties have been successful in getting about 42 positions in the counties. The Clemson State Advisory Council meets twice a year and committees meet on informal basis. There are 40 members on the council. It is broken up in committee structures. SAC in SC is helping market Extension – employees are worst marketing people. SAC in SC is marketing to Clemson University. Wants to recommend changes to their Council – they need a youth representative. Budget at Clemson – final figures; education in general 14.5 mil cut. Extension budget got a 6.8 mil cut – over 25 million that the state legislature cut from Clemson. SC State University lost 14% of their funding. They are also in a serious situation. Trying to lessen the cut for PSA in Extension. SAC is vital to NC Cooperative Ext. SAC in SC is stepping up to the plate and we have to work together to turn it around. Jesse thanked SAC for the opportunity to come and speak.

Sam Brake said a few words about the Kannapolis dedication. Sam talked about David Murdock and his contribution to the Kannapolis research station.

October 29th, 2008
Wednesday, October 29, 2008 Total Attendance (34)
North Carolina Cooperative Extension State Advisory Council Members in attendance: (25)
Steva Allgood, Ireni Autry, Charles Boyd, Sam Brake, Connie Buckner, Joey Bullock, Sue Glovier, Marshall Grant, Ron Joyner, Jackie Lewis, Mary Ann Lumpkins, Pete Miller, Chuck Moseley, Jack Parker, George Quigley, John Schnautz, B.A. Smith, Jo Ann Stroud, Shelly Willingham, Lynn Yokley, Jim Parlier, Rebecca Jones
NCSU Administration and Staff in attendance: (9) Joy Staton, Dr. Jon Ort, Pam Dickson, Dr. Deborah Crandall, Harvey Fouts, Joe Zublena, Dr. Ed Jones, Sue Counts, Allen Caldwell

B.A. Smith opened the meeting at La Quinta Inn at 8:15 a.m.

Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B.A. introduced Dr. Harvey Fouts, Western District Director, – who had a power point of what is going on in the west. There are 17 counties and the Cherokee reservation in the western region of the state. The west is a very diverse area. The Fraser fir industry has grown tremendously as an alternative industry. There is regional scenic beauty and the economy is based on tourism, agriculture, real estate, construction, retail, professional services, manufacturing. The people in the west have a strong sense of pride. The West has 31,042 farms. We focus on diversity and niche operations. The west is a growing region. The West has developed good relations with elected officials. The west has 5 current members on the State Advisory Council. John Schnautz, Dr. Connie Buckner, Charles Boyd, Jim Parlier and Sue Glovier.

Dr. Ed Jones gave a power point on use of RREA and 3d funds – targeted as program support. Available on competitive basis internally. No farm safety funds now - Congress has zeroed that out. Small and part time farms – Smith Lever now. IPM and Cotton IPM 3d – until 2009 this year it is competitive funding basis, funds not available until late spring provided we are successful in competitive approach.

Rural development moved from 3d to Smith Lever act. Rural Development - no restrictions on funds.
B. A. Smith thanked Dr. Jones for his presentation and introduced Allen Caldwell from Caldwell County and also Dr. Deborah Crandall, West Central District.

Sue Counts came up to give us an overview of the tours this afternoon.

Break

Back Home Visits:

Chuck Moseley – gave overview of Back Home visit with Patrick McHenry, showcased what each county was doing to Congressman Patrick McHenry. Chuck felt like McHenry came out of Back Home visit with a better understanding of what was going on in Cooperative Extension. Enjoyed having the time for q and a.

George Quigley – Bobby Etheridge, principal and senior members of agriculture committee. Concentrated on counties Lee, Harnett and Cumberland County for success stories. The visit went very well.

Jo Ann Stroud – Congressman Mike McIntyre – visit took place Oct. 14. Interest was to get him out to Williamsdale Farm that has been donated to NCSU for research, working on alternative fuels there. Success stories from EFNEP – very important to Duplin County.

B. A. Smith – Back Home with Congressman Robin Hayes. Brought him into Stanly County. Gave him 3 presentations. Had a 4-H presentation from a 4-Her – Hatley family. EFNEP program in Cabarrus County discussed. Win win situation. Reinforced how important Extension was.

Ralph Warren – showed huge diversity offered by Extension. Met with Congressman David Price.

B. A. Smith introduced Mr. Kevin Howell, Legislative affairs.

Kevin grew up in Shelby, N.C. He thanked SAC for inviting him to come. It’s all about Back Home and local politics, appreciates what SAC does. This is the group that delivers when it comes to Back Home. Thanked SAC for doing that. Hard to say no to Joy. Praised her for the hard work. Last year – General Assembly – passed out accomplishments from last year. Good news – NCSU received approx. 20,000,000 dollars because of growth. Went over the rest of the numbers as they related to NCSU. Went over NCSU Expansion Budget and NC State Capital Budget. Where are we now? Remember to vote. Going into next session with new governor. We need to develop our relationships. We need SAC to continue making visits and contacts with legislators. Largest university in system and we are in every county across the state because of Coop. Ext. Bad news – Kevin passed out handout showing the economic outlook. Number one goal on national and state level is our budget. Could be mid 2010 – 2011. Net withholding continued its steady slowdown with growth of 1.5% through September. This compares to 7% for the same quarter last year and is well below historical growth of 6.3%. Other factors – real estate conveyance tax – housing slump, extremely down. Dean Wynne commented he has never seen things as they are now. We are going into tough times. The governor has already reduced agency allotments. Alloting 98% not 100%. Colleges are preparing now for as high as 8% cuts. We have to say what things are important that we need to do. We don’t want to touch the classrooms or interfere with students coming to NCSU. We depend on state appropriations at 46%. 54% of budget is for education. We don’t know if we have reached the bottom yet. Expansion budget will be extremely low this year. We will play defense. 62% of budget is to pay salaries and benefits. No RIFS at this point in time. Other problems: affects endowment spending. Learned to appreciate when times are good, appreciates each time SAC has been called on to help. People believe in our University and what makes it special is people like SAC who get up every day and represent us well. What’s going to happen in January
We don’t know if we are going to have to fight. We haven’t called on people yet. Projections are mid 2010 -2011 until we pull out of this. We need you even more as we go further. Covered good news last year. Thank you for all the work you do. We will need you even more than you thought we needed you before. Opened floor up for questions. Dr. Ort thanked Kevin for coming to the meeting. Thanked him for job he does for NCSU and the system.

B.A. Smith introduced Dr. Jeanine Davis.

Jeanine Davis, Dept. of Horticulture Science, works at the Research Center in Mills River. Jeanine gave the group a power point in which she talked about natural products. Natural products are a huge industry and are defined as something as close to its natural state as it was grown. It can be processed to a certain extent but has not been exposed to chemical toxicity. Examples: medicinal herbs, natural and organic foods, pet and veterinary products, essential oils, organic beer, wine and spirits. Industry growing – valued in 07 at 94 billion. Medicinal herbs have been harvested and sold from Boone for hundreds of years. WNC is a reputed center for alternative health care and natural healing. NC – leader in organic agriculture. We can produce a quality that can’t be matched by foreign countries even though we can’t match their quantity.

The group broke for lunch

After lunch B.A. Smith introduced Jerry Moody, Extension director of Avery County. Jerry works with the Christmas tree industry. Jerry gave a power point presentation on the history of the Fraser fir industry which started out as a small cottage industry. The expansion years were 1970-1990’s. Maturing years 1990 – now. The need for Extension now is teach them marketing, rather than growing. Environmental pressures and the need to educate the public is an issue now also. Doing now – research aimed at fertility programs, demos with new pesticides/new techniques, spraying roundup with mist blower, researching and implementing changes in phytophthora management, new seedling/transplant production practices and Agri-tourism. Jerry answered questions from the group. B. A. thanked Jerry for his presentation.

B. A. introduced Ross Young, County Extension Director from Madison County.

Ross gave a power point presentation on Madison Farms. Non-profit network of farmers to add value to products, housed in their office. He also discussed the WNC Agricultural Options program.

B.A. Smith introduced Wendy Patoprsky.

Wendy is working with WEN, environmental education. Backyard Gardening and Conservation. Low Impact Living. Wendy gave a power point presentation on what is going on in Watauga County and a new wetland in the town of Newland. Wendy’s power point showed how the Watauga County staff works together to accomplish common goals. She talked about Backyard Conservation Workshop Series, creating healthy yards for humans and wildlife. The agents learned a lot by working all together. This summer they have been working on Watauga LEAD, Girls in Science, Leadership, Environment and Agricultural Discoveries. Had to be nominated by teacher. Has to be limited resource students. They have a one week summer camp and meet once a month during the year. Low Impact Living – decided this would be their brand in Extension. Did a low impact living series with different topics. How to limit your impact on the environment by the way you live.

October 30, 2008
Thursday, October 30, 2008 Total Attendance (29)
North Carolina Cooperative Extension State Advisory Council Members in attendance: (23)
Steva Allgood, Ireni Autry, Charles Boyd, Sam Brake, Connie Buckner, Joey Bullock, Sue Glovier, Marshall Grant, Ron Joyner, Jackie Lewis, Mary Ann Lumpkins, Pete Miller, Chuck Moseley, Jack Parker, George Quigley, John Schnauzt, B.A. Smith, Jo Ann Stroud, Shelly Willingham, Lynn Yokley, Ralph Warren, Jim Parlier, Rebecca Jones 
NCSU Administration and Staff in attendance: (6) Joy Staton, Dr. Jon Ort, Pam Dickson, Joe Zublena, Harvey Fouts, Sue Counts
B.A. Smith opened the SAC business meeting on October 30th at 8:15 am
B.A. thanked Jesse Eargle for coming and sharing with us from Clemson University.

Ireni gave update on treasurer’s report – asked for more detailed expense reports from SAC members on where they went, what they went for, total mileage, etc. Ireni has had calls from counties – wanting to know if they have paid. She showed the Council how she kept up with the money and when deposits were made. 97 Counties have already paid. Ireni gave the Treasurer’s report. B.A. asked members to look at treasurer’s report. Jack Parker moved to accept the report, B.A. Smith seconded the report. B.A. Smith asked everyone to look over the minutes from the last SAC meeting in Winston-Salem. George Quigley moved to approve the minutes as written.

Horn of Plenty:

Sam Brake and Jo Ann reported and said it was a good time to showcase Extension and meet with local government officials. Joe Zublena remarked that it is a big amount of work – procurement is a big part, agents work hard on it. We literally paid for everything but the liquor and entertainment.


Several people attending the Hugh Shelton conference next Friday – great conference.

Jack Parker and Chuck Moseley – Tailgate:
Jack reported – very festive event – held each year prior to an NCSU football game. Chuck enjoyed the game and great food.

Ag forums – Joy attended an Ag forum to hear Heath Shuler – she encouraged SAC members to attend Ag Forums sponsored by the NC Agribusiness Council when they are in the area.

New Business
Sam Brake asked about backing off a meeting for SAC. Dr. Ort said we may want to eliminate one SAC meeting next year. It would not be good to hold a meeting when we are eliminating positions, programs, etc. SEAL conference – the directors have committed to having it and going through with it. Dr. Ort will have more information later. The business session was adjourned.

SAC members met in district groups.
George Quigley - South Central report.
Connie Buckner - West District report
Ron Joyner - West Central report
Ralph Warren - North Central report
Jackie Lewis - Southeast District report
Dave Woodmansee - Northeast report
See reports on website http://als.ces.ncsu.edu

Chuck Moseley gave the Marketing committee report:
Our advisory marketing committee needs representation on large marketing committee at NCSU and Chuck volunteered to be on that committee. As members of SAC we need to go back to our clusters to open up avenues to put on programs for civic groups in your counties. We need to make sure counties know that marketing is their individual responsibility. Make sure specific programs - the information is available in those county offices. Be listening as well as talking – listen to needs from community. Each Advisory Council in county needs a media representative on the council. We need to develop e-mail communication from us to local advisory councils and NCSU and A&T.

Advocacy Committee: Jo Ann Stroud
Try to promote more Farm City weeks. Invite county commissioners, mayors, city councils, show them what we are doing and how many people we are reaching. We need to build a rapport with assistants for elected officials beyond the federal level. We need to have Back Home visits for US Senators. Suggested when we make PILD visit that all
of the delegation get to meet with the US Senators and still make contact with own personal Congressman. Would like to see each Extension Center hold a meet the people event like Duplin County does and showcase programs that Extension is doing. E-mail your people and get to know them enough so they recognize your name and get to know you personally and talk about Extension because it is in every county.

**Sharing Session:**

**Ron Joyner:** Ashe County Habitat for Humanity has just been formed there. Does anybody on SAC have any experience working with Habitat and any suggestions on how to get Extension involved. Jackie responded that Extension had helped with the landscape in her county for Habitat. Other members reported on their experiences with Habitat. Dr. Ort gave Ron some names of specialists at NCSU that could help with landscaping advice and home construction advice.

**Jo Ann** made a comment on how much she has enjoyed Dr. Ort and Joy changing the atmosphere of the meetings, they feel like a part of the committee now.

**Chuck** felt like there were two areas we could move into: agri-tourism and teaching farmers they have an agri-tourism opportunity.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Dickson
Administrative Support Specialist
ALS