



Texas Extension Specialists Association

Winter Board Meeting December 4, 2018

Attending: Michelle Payne, Sandra Pierce, Greg Kaase, Joaquina Scott Kankam, Rafash Brew, Will Keeling, Joe Mask, Philip Shackelford, Billy E. Warrick, Julie Gould, Dean McCorkle, Monty Dozier, and Janet Hurley

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order** at 1:20 PM by Dean McCorkle
2. **Introductions**
3. **Appointment of Parliamentarian** – McCorkle appointed Will Keeling as parliamentarian.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** July 2018 minutes were circulated via email and in person. Mask made a motion to accept minutes as written, second by Dozier. All were in favor
5. **Review/Revise Agenda** – nothing to add
6. **Correspondence** –Hurley reported that Carol Suter responded to an email in August that was sent out informing her of a recent fall which resulted in a concussion. She asked to be kept on the mailing list and keep her informed on future events. Janet sent her a response to stay healthy. No other correspondence reported.
7. **4-H Foundation** – Joe Mask reported that the 4-H scholarship program has moved to an online application system. The Extension South Campus building has been named in honor of Richard & Patsy Walrath AgriLife Extension building. The old 4-H offices have been sold. No other changes occurred over the fall of 2018.
8. **Old Business / Standing Committees / Reports**
 - a. Nominating – Monty Dozier will be looking for volunteers for President – Elect.
 - b. **Treasurer** Greg Kaase reported that there is \$9,243.50 in the TESA Checking account, and \$4,705.50 in the TEEFI account (where we collect credit card funds), plus our Certificates of Deposit and savings gives us \$25,786.17 in total funds.

Income As of 11/29/2018	Amount
Ag Conf Social Registration	0.0
Annual Meeting Registration	\$ 2,835.00
Membership Dues	\$ 980.00
Sponsor donations	\$11,950.00
Interest	\$ 30.58
Total Income to Date 2017	\$ 15,995.58
Expense	Amount
Uncategorized (refund for annual conference)	\$ 0
Ag Conf Social	\$ 0
Annual meeting Costs	\$ 9,515.44
Annual meeting costs 2019 Cruise Deposit	\$12,250.00
Board Expense	\$ 1,000.50
Chapter meeting	\$ 49.60
Professional Development	0.0
Professional Dev/Travel Grant for annual meeting	\$889.86
Awards Recognition	\$ 701.60
Scholarships – 2 students	\$0.0

Our Goals

Promote professional improvement for our members • Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas • Secure benefits collectively that cannot be obtained individually • Voice a collective opinion for recommended courses of action, changes, or needs to administrative staffs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and The Texas A&M University System

Support – Mask 4-H Foundation	\$ 0.0
Total Expenses as of 7/9/18	\$24,407.00

- c. Membership Gregg Kaase reported we have 45 paid members, 10 First Year members and 119 lifetime members that is a total of 174 members.
 - d. Audit - Dean McCorkle reported that he and Rebekka Dudensing conducted the audit on October 1, 2018 to review the annual recordkeeping procedures. (see the attached report for the full report)
 - e. Awards – Since Kay Ledbetter & Steven Klose were not present, Dean McCorkle and Janet Hurley presented the discussion about the TESA written guidelines on our awards process. During the summer Board meeting Klose distributed a handout (see attachments) that covers the three categories that the Award Committee struggled with how to handle the presentation and the cost of having the award winners attend our annual meeting. The Board reviewed this document and made a couple of changes the board approved the motion made by Dozier and second by Pierce to adopt these award guidelines, and that Kay Ledbetter and Janet Hurley should make any needed grammatical edits to them and incorporate them into the guidelines document.
 - f. Scholarship –Dean McCorkle reported for Dennis Coker who could not attend the Board meeting that we received no applications last year.
 - g. Professional Development – Philip Shackelford reported that we need to discuss this subject under new business.
 - h. Life members, Recognitions – Billy Warrick reported on the deaths for 2018, their names will be added to the plaque. Warrick reported that the engraving for the plaque plates is \$20 with a total cost of \$100. Mask made the motion to approve these expenses and Gould seconded, all were in favor.
 - a. Dr. C. Wendell Horne died November 26, 2018; he was Associate Department Head and Extension Program Leader / Plant Pathology & Microbiology
 - b. Dale Lovelace, died September 29, 2018, he was Area Forage Specialist for Soil & Crop Sciences at the District 4 Headquarters in Dallas
 - c. Dr. F.C. “Buddy” Faries, Jr. died September 11, 2018; he was Professor & Extension Specialist with the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases (formerly Veterinary Medicine), Emeritus
 - d. Dr. Philip J. Hamman died May 31, 2018; he was Associate Department Head and Extension Program Leader / Entomology
 - e. H.A. Turney died May 6, 2018; he was Extension Entomologist for District 4 when he retired January 31, 1989
 - i. Industry Liaison – Dozier and Young will be taking over these responsibilities now that Jackie Smith has fully retired from these duties. They have been in contact with our sponsors and will be inviting them to join us on the cruise in 2019.
 - j. Website/Historian – Payne stated that the website is up to date. She and Janet Hurley can update the website so if you see something that needs fixing please let one of them know.
 - k. Others – TESA booth at new employee orientation in October – Kaase & Payne reported they handed out flyers about becoming a member and the cruise in July. 4 new members signed up.
9. 2018 Annual Meeting: McCorkle reported we had 100 attend the conference, including 46 members and 54 family members. The overall evaluation comments were favorable for the location; everyone enjoyed the speakers and the cost.

10. New Business

Our Goals

Promote professional improvement for our members • Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas • Secure benefits collectively that cannot be obtained individually • Voice a collective opinion for recommended courses of action, changes, or needs to administrative staffs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and The Texas A&M University System

- a. **2019 Annual Meeting** – Mask reported that he and McCorkle has been working with Landry & Kling, a travel agency, to set up the annual meeting on a 4-night 3-day cruise from Galveston to Cozumel, Mexico. With approval from AgriLife Extension Administrators our group has been granted permission to have our annual conference on Royal Caribbean Enchantment of Seas cruise ship. We have reserved July 22 -26, 2019 for our annual meeting, flyers and emails have been sent out.
- Mask reported that 25 (at the time of the board meeting, I think we had 9 rooms sold....now it's up to 18) rooms have been reserved as of 12/4/18 we have a -55-room block
 - Scott-Kankam Prairie View mentioned it was not approved for CEP to travel to attend this conference and Joe Mask stated he would speak to the leadership. Mask said that he will call Caroline Williams and visit with her, and possibly arrange to visit with her in person about this. McCorkle said he could attend the meeting also.
 - Mask submitted this tentative agenda for the cruise
 - i. Depart Galveston at 4 PM 7/22/19 that evening will have a meet and greet – dinner will be on our own
 - ii. Tuesday – a mini golf tournament will be available aboard the ship, that afternoon will meet as a group from 1 to 5 PM; We will have a group dinner at 8:30 PM this will be our only dinner as a full group due to the extra cost to have this more than once. (\$40 per person)
 - iii. Wednesday will be a free day as we will be in Cozumel.
 - iv. Thursday the group will meet from in the morning and should be done by noon. Afternoon time to visit with coworkers and family.
 - v. Friday arrive back in Galveston at 7:00 AM disembark and return back to home area.
 - The group discussed not having a memorial dinner due to the \$40 cost per person instead there will be a memorial under the stars where we will honor those who passed.
 - All AgriLife Employees will need to file out of country travel paperwork – Mask will distribute instructions to membership in spring 2019. Passport not required but recommended if you are traveling with children or don't have a passport, be sure to bring a copy of birth certificates just in case of an emergency. Because this is considered international travel Agency computers/laptops should not be taken with employees, unless permission from TAMUS export control is approved.
 - A self-imposed deadline of February 15, 2019 on room reservations was discussed so that if we do not have the required room block met that we can release them by March. This self-imposed date could change after Mask talks to Landry & Kling. Mask plans to call/e-mail/contact members to solicit more members to take advantage of this offer.
 - Once Mask knows who is attending, he will work up an agenda for our meeting based on our attendees.
 - Participants can purchase Wi-Fi for \$19.95 (per day?) if they want to stay connected to the outside world. Members should also check with the cell phone carrier some have plans that you can purchase that will allow you to keep in touch with members at home.

Our Goals

Promote professional improvement for our members • Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas • Secure benefits collectively that cannot be obtained individually • Voice a collective opinion for recommended courses of action, changes, or needs to administrative staffs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and The Texas A&M University System

- b. Sponsors annual meeting – Mask, McCorkle and Dozier will reach out to the sponsors to invite them to sign up and join us on the cruise. The Board agreed that we should not offer the \$100 supplement to them, leave that for our membership and retirees.
- c. Chapter Directors Training Session – Nothing to report
- d. Retiree recognition, remembrance – As discussed in the notes pertaining to the 2019 annual meeting Warrick liked the idea of doing a memorial under the stars, he will prepare something for that event.
- e. Questions for Extension Administration
 - 1. What is the status of Extension Program Specialists going to level 4?
 - 2. Concern from PVAMU Extension employees as to where do they fit with new PVAMU leadership and will this impact those at the county level. It appears more focus on research not outreach.
 - 3. What is the priority for filling vacant District Specialist positions?
- f. Board meeting expenses – Kaase stated that TESA will pay for the hotel rooms for those who stay at the Flagship Inn, plus the meals to the 4-H conference center.
 - 1. The Board discussed the 2019 proposed budget which lead to discussions for items g & h
 - Since some of our members don't have sales accounts that can be used for travel reimbursements for the 2019 annual meeting, the Board discussed taking the money from the Professional Development Scholarship to be used along with Professional Development Travel Grant for annual meeting so that there would be ample funds for several members to apply and receive these grants. Applications will go out in early 2019 so that members would know in advance of our deadline for the room block if they were selected to receive the travel grant.
 - Joe Mask made a motion to budget for \$5,000 in 2019 fiscal year to use as travel scholarship funds for TESA members to apply and use for travel for the 2019 annual meeting. Shackelford seconded the motion and all were in favor.
 - This led to the final discussion for the 2019 proposed budget the increase in awards/recognitions is to allow for the additional expenses for the John Hutchinson Award as that plaque requires additional engraving. And the combination of professional development scholarships to be all for travel grants. Joe Mask made a motion to accept the budget as proposed with a second from Shackelford, all were in favor.

Income	Proposed 2019 Budget
01 - Ag Conf Social Registration	\$250
02 - Annual Meeting Registration	\$2,500
03 - Membership Dues	\$1,000
04 - Sponsor Donations	\$11,500
05 - Interest	\$50
Total Income	\$15,300
Expenses	
01 - Ag Conf Social	\$650
02 - Annual Meeting Costs	\$2,500
03 - Board Expense	\$2,600
04 - Chapter Meeting	\$500
05a - Prof. Dev. Meeting/Travel Grant	\$5,000

Our Goals

Promote professional improvement for our members • Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas • Secure benefits collectively that cannot be obtained individually • Voice a collective opinion for recommended courses of action, changes, or needs to administrative staffs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and The Texas A&M University System

06 - Awards - Recognitions	\$700
07 - Scholarships	\$1,000
08 - Support	\$550
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,500
OVERALL TOTAL	\$1,800

- g. Scholarship – see above discussion
- h. TESA annual meeting travel scholarship– see above discussion
- i. TESA promotional signage – Kaase shared with the group that it would be nice to have some type of roll up banner or table top display for when they attend new employee orientation or other events. Group also discussed possibly looking at a table cloth as well, so that we could look professional at these events. Greg will investigate the cost and let the group know via email in 2019.
 - Side note, while preparing for the new building move in Dallas, Janet found three old roll up banner stands that our group can use if that will help defray some of our costs.
- j. Greg will also investigate about any member gifts we can hand out at the annual meeting as well.

Julie Gould made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by J. Hurley, all were in Favor meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Board reconvened at 9:03 AM after the General Assembly meeting.

McCorkle reported that since TCAAA and 4-H Association had numerous questions, some which were like ours, that he and Joe Mask decided to wait until our meeting with leadership to discuss them with our group present.

Dr. Parr Rosson, Interim Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service was joined by Angela Burkham, State Program Leader - FCS and Regional Program Leader - North Region and Todd Swift, State Program Leader - ANR and Regional Program Leader - South Region

1. McCorkle brought up the 2019 annual meeting on the cruise ship. While this was supported by previous leadership in 2017 there is some concern that current leadership would not support this. Especially considering what PVAMU expressed to our Executive Board on the previous day. Dr. Rosson stated again there should be no problem with this travel as part of professional development. That the total cost of the cruise for an individual is like the cost of attending a meeting in San Antonio or Corpus Christi with hotel and per diem rates. When reporting in Concur be sure to select Galveston as that would be the closest in per diem rates. At the same time since AgriLife leadership will not be attending, Monty Dozier will represent administration and will report any updates that they have at the meeting.
2. What is the status of Extension Program Specialists going to level 4? Dr. Mark Waller has been working with Dr. Whitson on this topic, as well as working on the career ladder document for this group to make it more uniform and easier to understand by Associate Department Heads and the peer review committees. Greg Kaase will follow up with Dr. Whitson after the first of January
3. Concern from PVAMU Extension employees as to where do they fit with new PVAMU leadership and will this impact those at the county level. It appears more focus on research not outreach. Dr.

Our Goals

Promote professional improvement for our members • Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas • Secure benefits collectively that cannot be obtained individually • Voice a collective opinion for recommended courses of action, changes, or needs to administrative staffs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and The Texas A&M University System

Rosson stated he has met with Dr. Gerard D'Souza, Dean and Director of Land Grant Programs who has expressed great interest in working with AgriLife Extension and building upon those relationships. Dr. Rosson stated he will keep our concerns in mind as he moves forward working with Dr. D'Souza.

4. What is the priority for filling vacant District Specialist positions? While we had this question so did the Agents as well. This topic was addressed during the general assembly but for the purposes of our Board minutes will put the response here. All Specialist positions are on hold until a permanent Extension Director is appointed. Unless a position is in immediate need and then that position will be reviewed on a case by case basis. During the meeting with our group, Dr. Rosson discussed approving the turfgrass specialist in Dallas based on the immediate need to not have this position go vacant for another year. He stated he saw the Industry response to the field day held at the Dallas Center and knew that this is an important position.

General Assembly was opened by Felice Acker, FCS Agent, Castro County at 8:05 AM

Acker introduced her group and each of the other associations introduced their officers in attendance.

Dr. Rosson was introduced. On Dec. 5, 2018 was an official day of mourning for President George Bush 41 and Dr. Rosson began with a moment of silence in respect of Mr. Bush. Dr. Rosson recognized Monty Dozier, Angela Burkham and Todd Swift as the other leaders in the room.

2019 is a legislative year, and as such Dr. Rosson was pleased to announce that our Agency was not asked to submit a reduced budget instead we were able to submit a budget that reflects our current Agency needs. He recently was present at a legislative appropriations meeting, which usually attend by 3 to 4 committee members, instead there was 13 panelist present for this meeting. Several of the panelists are aware of our work and a few have spoken to Dr. Rosson directly about the work that was done after Hurricane Harvey.

With this in mind Dr. Rosson went through the Exceptional Items that AgriLife is submitting. Exceptional items are not special items therefore if approved they would roll into the full agency budget. AgriLife Extension, AgriLife Research and Texas A&M Healthy Science Center are all requesting exceptional items that support continued work for Extension.

AgriLife Extension items:

1. Disaster Readiness and Recovery for Texas

The proposed program will create six regional teams of AgriLife Extension professionals to provide rapid, precise assessments in case of disaster and implement critical recovery protocols. These Disaster Assessment and Recovery Teams (DARTs) will aid communities with resiliency planning, emergency preparedness, hazard mitigation, and long-term recovery. AgriLife Extension will seek to utilize military veterans with appropriate skill sets and backgrounds in staffing the DARTs.

To read the full item follow this link <https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/exceptional-item-disaster-readiness-and-recovery-for-texas.pdf>

2. Wildlife and Zoonotic Disease Surveillance

Create a systematic wildlife disease surveillance system to identify, monitor, and address diseases and emerging health issues that can harm livestock or humans. Provide information to public health officials, animal health officials and practitioners, and wildlife managers to help them better predict, prevent, and respond to outbreaks. To read the full item follow this link <https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/exceptional-item-wildlife-and-zoonotic-disease-surveillance.pdf>

Our Goals

Promote professional improvement for our members • Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas • Secure benefits collectively that cannot be obtained individually • Voice a collective opinion for recommended courses of action, changes, or needs to administrative staffs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and The Texas A&M University System

AgriLife Research items:

Connecting Texas Agriculture, People, and Environment for Health and Prosperity

Texas A&M AgriLife Research proposes a collaborative program with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to connect agriculture, food, and health via research and technology development. Using food and agriculture to improve quality of life, reduce health-care costs, and sustain agriculture in Texas.

To read the full item follow this link https://agriflfecdn.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/ConnectingTexasAgriculture_3.pdf

Texas A&M Health Science Center – Healthy Texas Path to the Plate

Healthy Texas (\$10,865,00 for FY2020-21, in addition to existing appropriations)

Texas A&M Healthy Texas will expand the existing framework of Healthy South Texas from the original 27 counties to a statewide program through the integrated care model of Texas A&M health care providers teamed with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. This statewide expansion will mobilize Texans to change their lifestyles to prevent and manage disease in patient populations and add high consequence areas, such as cancer prevention (e.g., smoking cessation, breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening, skin cancer prevention, HPV vaccination) to the existing portfolio of successful chronic disease management activities (e.g., diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma). In the first four years of funding, the Healthy South Texas platform has provided a strong beginning to a novel and successful approach to reducing the onset and effects of diseases such as diabetes, asthma, and infectious disease, by connecting Texas A&M Health Science Center's clinical and population health disease prevention and management programs with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's education and outreach to promote healthy lifestyles in Texans.

- a) More than 1.2 million South Texans have been served with programs in health awareness, well baby programs, nutrition education, physical activity engagement, medication assistance, diabetes and asthma control, and infectious disease prevention (including prevention of Zika virus infections) through Healthy South Texas from September 2015 through June 2018.
- b) While the most important outcome is in the improved quality of lives, it is significant that Health care cost savings of \$52.2 million can be directly attributed to diabetes and asthma control, medication assistance, and health services from September 2015 - June 2018. The lifetime healthcare costs of infants infected with Zika virus in utero are estimated to be \$10-\$40 million and would place an extreme burden on state Medicaid resources. Additionally, with a continuation of funding in the out years, there is \$106 million potential lifetime cost savings that can be attributed to healthier lives resulting from increased physical activity.

Dr. Rosson then discussed the Extension Director Search which has been announced and will remain open until Feb. 15, 2019. Currently we have twenty (20) specialist positions open; however, we only have funding for eight (8) positions. To date (12/5/18) three emergency specialists' positions have been filled based on need from the Department and Special Interest Groups. At the same time, Agent positions are being filled as personnel is found. 20 assistant agent positions will be filled over the next year.

Our Goals

Promote professional improvement for our members • Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas • Secure benefits collectively that cannot be obtained individually • Voice a collective opinion for recommended courses of action, changes, or needs to administrative staffs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and The Texas A&M University System