A meeting of the Escambia County 4-H Task Force was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, in the Extension Office auditorium.

Via Polycom, Dr. Keith Diem, Associate Dean and State 4-H Program Leader, and 4-H Task Force Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. CT, and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated the main purpose of the meeting was for subcommittees to provide a status report/update since the last meeting so that the Task Force as a whole can continue to help strengthen each option.

Task Force members present: Brian Bell, Jimmy Cunningham, Whitney Fike, Eli Miller, Anne Peterson, Sharon Tanner, David Nielsen, Dana Beth Tyler, Stacey Ward, and Rebekah Mobley. Task Force members absent: Robert McLaughlin and Dave Timberlake.

Dr. Diem stated that everyone should have received and reviewed the meeting minutes of March 18, 2013. With no changes, Brian Bell made a motion to accept the minutes with a second by Anne Peterson. Minutes approved unanimously by verbal vote.

As part of the meeting introduction, Dr. Diem brought up the following points for the sake of clarification, in response to recent questions and issues pertinent to the Task Force.

1. The Task Force was formed by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in paragraph F. 4.

2. There appears to be some misunderstanding about the term of appointment for the Task Force. The appointment language for the Task Force states a minimum of six months or until done with its charge. There is some misunderstanding that the next meeting is the end of the Task Force. The Task Force will compile its report to the Dean for his review and he will let the Task Force know if he needs more information or if he will dismiss the Task Force if he believes it has completed its charge.

3. There is misinformation that the GCA & NRA Spring Livestock Show is the last 4-H event at the Langley Bell Center. This is not true. 4-H has use of the property for another year and a half (through August 2014) per its lease agreement with Navy Federal. The misinformation has created an unnecessary sense of urgency to rush through the process. There is still adequate time to identify viable options and reach a favorable solution for the benefit of 4-H in Escambia County.
4. Referring to the first item on the minutes of March 18, 2013, Dr. Diem stated there is continued lobbying taking place and some Task Force members are involved. He advised Task Members to refrain from lobbying because it gives the appearance that those members involved are representing the Task Force and supporting positions that may not support the MOU. The Task Force is charged with fact-finding, not making recommendations or decision-making. Furthermore, some of the lobbying appears to have involved possible manipulation of 4-H youth, which is something that UF does not take lightly. UF is not allowed to give out information about 4-H youth or parents of youth. This is governed by Florida State Statute under Section 119.071(4)(c)1-3 which can be found on the policies page of the Florida 4-H website at http://florida4h.org/about/policies/#pr. Lobbying degrades the integrity of the Task Force and allows rumors to persist. Not all Task Force members are engaged in lobbying but those who are need to honor the process they agreed to when they were appointed to serve.

Task Force member Jimmy Cunningham stated that he thought Extension was being one-sided, and that the legislative delegation chose to get involved with Senator Gaetz telling Senator Evers to come over. The delegation is in favor of the kids having land. Mr. Cunningham stated that he was not the only one involved in lobbying—it also included the Farm Bureau and the Cattlemen’s Association. Dr. Diem acknowledged that it was the prerogative of other groups to do as they choose but Task Force members have an obligation to support the MOU and adhere to the terms of their appointment to the Task Force.

Dr. Diem concluded this discussion by saying that the entire business of the Task Force is to find land based on the MOU and, by doing this, will ensure the terms of the MOU are honored and there is no violation of the legally-binding agreement signed by the University of Florida, the County of Escambia, and the Escambia County 4-H Foundation. Nowhere in the MOU does it promise property would be replaced acre for acre. If promises were made outside of the MOU, that is not the business of the Task Force. The Task Force has a fact-finding charge to identify potential property to be used for 4-H animal-science and environmental education activities.

Proceeding with the agenda, Dr. Diem informed the Task Force that the Dean added a criterion as a filter to the proposals, which originates from the goal stated in the MOU. At the end of the summary of each proposal, it should answer the question:

“How does this option support and advance the overall UF/IFAS Extension 4-H Youth Development Program in Escambia County?”

With this in mind, the meeting moved forward to the subcommittee updates.
Presentation 1 - Publicly-Owned Land Options

Task Force member Sharon Tanner started her presentation by stating that determining the estimated yearly cost of upkeep was still unclear to her. She proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation with pictures of the facilities that the subcommittee reviewed.

- Langley Bell 4-H Center. Pictures shown were taken at the GCA & NRA Spring Livestock Show that occurred over the previous weekend.
- Beck’s Lake. This is property that is owned by IP/ECUA. This 2,300-acre property was purchased with FEMA money with plans to use approximately 300 acres. Pictures showed a lake, baseball field, basketball court, open land spaces, and roadways leading to the property.
- Roy Hyatt. Pictures show the property in relation to Ransom Middle School and roadways leading to the property.
- Equestrian Center. Pictures showed the outlying grounds area, the stalls, and the main show arena.
- Cottage Hill State Park. Pictures of this property showed the various terrains, lots of timberland, a wooden bridge, and a small area that flooded after heavy rains.

Ms. Tanner distributed a handout of the properties and advised that little was changed in the document from what was distributed last month.

Task Force member Eli Miller provided some rough estimates on the cost of replacing current structures at Langley Bell 4-H Center per the list of structures in the Task Force notebook.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description for Show Arena</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pole Barn (approx. 2,560 sf @ $10/sf)</td>
<td>$25,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting (basic)</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Stage</td>
<td>$4,000 - $5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable Panels</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total to Replace Show Arena</td>
<td>$39,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description for Cattle Barn</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle Barn (approx. 3,900 sf @ $10/sf)</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting (basic)</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stalls / Dividers</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water / Plumbing</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total to Replace Cattle Barn</td>
<td>$54,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description for Hog Facility</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hog facility (1,440 sf @ $12/sf)</td>
<td>$17,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paneling for Hog Facility</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description for Poultry Facility</td>
<td>Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry Facility</td>
<td>$9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enclosed Room for Supplies</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting (basic)</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total to Replace Poultry Facility</td>
<td>$16,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Handicapped Accessible Restroom</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restroom (500 sf @ $60/sf)</td>
<td>$30,000 - $35,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was a brief discussion about estimating the costs for utilities and upkeep. Dr. Diem suggested that a relative cost (compared to Langley Bell property) instead of inconsistent estimates of each property be determined so that it is standardized for all options. Pamela Allen agreed to confer with County Facilities Management to determine the costs based on a standardized method. Task Force member Dana Beth Tyler asked the question as to how much acreage is used by the Livestock Show. Pamela Allen was asked to find this information for the next meeting. Dr. Diem referred back to the MOU for clarification stating the Task Force is addressing the animal science, environmental outdoor education needs. Therefore, it is not a matter of quantity of land but what is actually needed based on functions and needs of 4-H, as expressed by 4-H agents in prior Task Force meetings.

**Presentation 2 – Private Land Option – Bayer Property**

Task Force member Stacey Ward informed the Task Force that the subcommittee did not prepare a formal presentation but simply answered the questions based on “Information still Needed” as follow:

- Environmental study. Phase 1 completed but seller not releasing the results unless a serious offer is made.  
  *No comment to address this issue.*
- Cost of additional environmental studies that the county would require and who pays for these studies?  
  *No idea on cost.*
- Clarification on amount of land currently being leased to other parties and what commitments, if any, continue if property is sold to 4-H? What part of the land is being used and what part would be available to 4-H?  
  *There are 177 acres and all is available.*
• If part of the property is leased out, what are the potential liabilities?
  Cannot answer.
• Would the County be permitted to lease County-owned property to private citizens for profit purposes?
  Yes, the County should be able to lease property, and believe it can be handled with a management agreement. One example is the Ruritan which is a non-profit. The School Board does it so the County should be able to as well.
• How would income from property work as it relates to the fact that 4-H would purchase the property but the County would hold it in trust for 4-H? Is the County willing to do that?
  Depends on the management agreement.
• Buildings have been vacant for two years—are there any problems as a result? How old are the buildings?
  There is a caretaker on the property and all utilities are working. The first building was built in 1977 and the last in 2004.
• Asking price in listing is $2.1 million—what is seller willing to accept? Can we get this in writing?
  Have to double check, but according to Task Force member Jimmy Cunningham, the Realtor is certain that the property can be purchased for $1.3 million.
• What is the annual estimated cost for upkeep, such as utilities?
  Task Force member Stacey Ward stated that she used the figures based on the email that Pamela Allen forwarded from Facilities Management (but she did not actually give an estimated cost).
• If additional acreage is not needed by 4-H and were to be sold, what is the current prices of agriculture land?
  Task Force member Stacy Ward did not have a cost per acre for agricultural land. However, Task Force member Jimmy Cunningham stated that the cost of agricultural land is $3,500 per acre per the Realtor. He further said that he considered owning land as a long-term diversified investment that could be held onto and sold at a later date at a higher value.

Dr. Diem added that based on the lobbying efforts, the legislative delegation would like the Task Force to pursue other private land options besides just the Bayer property. With that in mind, there are three ways to do that.

1. Send the preliminary report to the Dean with the Bayer property as the only private land option;
2. Add another private land option to the preliminary report before sending to the Dean; or
3. Add and submit another private land option after the preliminary report is sent to the Dean if he requests additional options for private land purchases.
It was announced that members of the publicly-owned land subcommittee knew of a private land option thought to be sold but recently learned it was back on the market. Therefore, Eli Miller and Brian Bell volunteered to look into that property, to have another private land option to include in the preliminary report to the Dean.

**Presentation 3 – Non-Land Options**

Task Force member Dana Beth Tyler stated that the subcommittee was asked to provide a list of Federal Parks and she mentioned a few. The community centers are all run by different groups so it is necessary to call them individually to get cost information. A website was mentioned as to where to go to find out about activities, location and events for youth.

At the end of the status presentations, Task Force member Brian Bell suggested that University of West Florida (UWF) property be investigated as it has nature trails. He volunteered to start that process. Task Force member Sharon Tanner asked if the Task Force is to still consider combining options to meet the overall needs as suggested at the last meeting and how that would work. Dr. Diem suggested that at the next meeting after each of the options have responded to the Dean’s request of how the option supports and advances the overall 4-H youth program, then the Task Force collectively can discuss how to combine complementary options.

Dr. Diem stated that it had been suggested that the Task Force and subcommittees try to meet more often and that the subcommittee meetings should be documented. Pamela Allen advised that the subcommittee meeting notes be short bullet statements that include date/time subcommittee met, who attended, and the main points discussed during the meeting. These need to be emailed to the subcommittee’s Extension faculty liaison or delivered to the Extension Office. The subcommittee meeting notes will be posted on the Extension website along with the Task Force meeting agendas and minutes.

Task Force member Jimmy Cunningham gave a brief report of the GCA & NRA Spring Livestock Show that occurred at the Langley Bell 4-H Center over the weekend.

Dr. Diem thanked everyone for their continued efforts. He said the next step would be for the subcommittees to fully spell out their options so that someone that doesn’t know anything about the options can read and understand them from reading the report. Be sure each option has answered the Dean’s question about how it supports and advances the overall 4-H youth program in Escambia County. He also reminded the Task Force that the Extension faculty staff cannot help in any way with writing or editing the report. A week before the next meeting on May 2, 2013, the subcommittees need to send a word processing document to Pamela Allen along with any pictures or whatever other documentation is necessary. This can include a recommendation to combine one option with another option, if it would strengthen it. Pamela
Allen will electronically send out each subcommittee’s report prior to the May 2 meeting so everyone can review them in advance of the meeting to be prepared. At the next meeting, the Task Force will review all reports.

In summary, Dr. Diem made the following comments about preparing the report to the Dean:

1. The report to the Dean must come from the Task Force. Therefore, Extension faculty/staff may assist with formatting the report but will not do any writing or editing;
2. At the next meeting, the Task Force will put the report together for the Dean and then wait for his further direction; and
3. Keep in mind that the report will be from the entire Task Force and not separate reports from individual subcommittee. All Task Force members’ names will be on the report so it must be a document everyone is willing to put forward.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:28 PM CT. Subcommittees were offered to use this time to meet if needed.

Upcoming dates:

- Subcommittee reports due to Pamela Allen by Thursday, April 25, 2013
- Next meeting of the 4-H Task Force is Thursday, May 2, 2013, at 5:30 PM CT