

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: January 3, 2011
SUBJECT: Update: Cooperative Extension MOU Revisions
ATTACHMENTS: No

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

At their November 17th meeting, the former Board of Commissioners directed staff to communicate the following revisions to the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension and ask that the revisions be incorporated into a final MOU. The Board further approved the budget amendment with these revisions and directed that the expenses be reallocated to the agri-business economic development budget. Staff received a response from Dan Smith, NCSU District Extension Director on December 15th. The following table reflects the County's MOU revisions and NCSU responses to each.

Nov. 17 th County Requested Revisions to MOU	Dec. 15 th Response from NCSU
Eliminate 1 Ag Extension Agent position and combine duties with Extension Director position (Est. annual savings to County \$40,775)	Request that this position be retained to determine if Interim Director becomes permanent employee.
Revise MOU to bring Livestock position to 10%, which is the percentage that the County has been funding position.	Agreed.
Eliminate currently vacant Nutrition Program Asst. (EFNEP) position. (Est. annual savings to County \$12,928)	Requests that the County continue funding this position.
Reduce County funding for 4-H Asst. position from 66% to 49% (Est. annual savings to County \$5,929)	Request to keep this position at current 66% County cost share
Eliminate currently vacant Secretary 2 position.	Agreed due to State hiring freeze anticipated.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

While staff has had detailed conversations with NCSU representatives and appreciates their concessions, we recommend that the MOU be revised to reflect the following:

- Eliminate vacant positions: Secretary, Ag Extension Agent, and Nutrition Program Assistant.
- Maintain funding at 66% County funding for the 4-H Program Assistant.
- Revise MOU to reflect 10% County funding for the Livestock Ag Agent position

These revisions are expected to result in an approximate \$79,000 cost savings in Cooperative Extension, which will be reallocated to the agri-business economic development initiative previously approved by the Board.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move that the Board approve staff's recommendations presented above and direct staff to communicate these final MOU revisions to NCSU Cooperative Extension.

Update: Cooperative Extension Memorandum of Understanding Revisions

January 3, 2011
Board of Commissioners Meeting

Background ~ Nov 2010

- ▶ Former Board of Commissioners approved revisions to Cooperative Extension MOU for the following:
 - Eliminate following positions:
 - Ag Extension Agent position
 - Nutrition Program Asst. (EFNEP) position
 - Secretary position
 - Revise MOU to reflect 10% County funding for the Livestock Ag Agent position
 - Reduce County share for 4-H Asst. position from 66% to 49%
- Cuts to operational expenses totaling \$5,300 (10% for half of fiscal year)
- Total savings approx. \$85,000 reallocated to Agricultural Incentives Fund

Background ~ Dec 2010

- NCSU responded with the following:
 - Maintain Ag Extension Agent position
 - Maintain Nutrition Program Assistant position
 - Eliminate Secretary position (due to State hiring freeze)
 - Agreed to revise MOU to reflect 10% County funding for the Livestock Ag Agent position
 - Maintain County share for 4-H Asst. position at 66%
 - Agreed to operational expense reductions

Staff Recommendation

- ▶ January 3, 2011
 - Staff recommends Board approval of the following:
 - Eliminate following positions:
 - Ag Extension Agent position
 - Nutrition Program Asst. (EFNEP) position
 - Secretary position
 - Revise MOU to reflect 10% County funding for the Livestock Ag Agent position
 - Maintain County share for 4-H Asst. position at 66%
 - Total savings of approximately \$79,000 reallocated to Agricultural Incentives Fund current fiscal year.

ANY QUESTIONS ?