**KASCOE Minutes**

**September 12, 2013**

**Kentucky State Committee Meeting**

**11:15 AM EST till 11:30 AM EST**

The KASCOE Board of Directors met on September 12, 2013 at the Kentucky State FSA Office in Lexington, KY with the State Committee and State Executive Director.

Present: Mary Berry-Smith, Lee Robey, James Kay, Joe Spalding, David Duncan, John McCauley, Bob Finch and Debbie Wakefield.

Directors and Officers present: Coy Higdon, Micki Crider, Karen Evans, Dana McKinney, Janice Lake, Marcinda Kester, Runita Rice, Melanie Barnes, Brenda Dicken, Melissa Myers, Nina Hunt, Kevin Whitaker, John Goff and Patti Karn.

Introductions around the room were made. President Coy Higdon ‘thanked’ the State Committee for taking time to meet with Officers and Directors.

**Some of the items of discussion were:**

Shared Management and Lead PT

Key PT Position in the state with possible responsibilities in CRP, PL and/or MIDAS

Awards for employees that the budget does not allow for any this year

With bad morale across the state what type of ‘incentives’ are there to help the morale

Discussion then led to the current and future staffing levels. Debbie Wakefield stated that currently Kentucky is 2 below on the Federal side and 10 below on the county office side. For FY 2014 CO is 235 and Federal is 100 is current staffing level.

Discussion on ‘Rightsizing’ is off the table until a Farm Bill is passed

The SED will be attending a SED Meeting in 2 weeks in Washington DC. Some topics of discussion there will be Program Delivery and hopes of ‘lifting’ the hiring freeze before rightsizing. Discussion then moved toward the possibility of Service Areas in the next 2 years.

President Higdon discussed KASCOE stance on office combinations for KY.

There currently is a Continuing Resolution until December 15, 2013.

FSFL loans were discussed and the possibility of CEDs to get credit approvals on loan approval eligibility.

Currently, there are 17 loan managers in Kentucky now and CED would need to take tests and complete modules to get this credit approval first.

There was a discussion of a possible Dress Code for the state of Kentucky. There is a proposal that the District Directors are working on. The State Committee requested that KASCOE look at the proposal and makes a decision and informs the State Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM EST.

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Patti J. Karn, KASCOE Secretary