



Illinois Extension

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**University of Illinois Extension
Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington Counties
Unit 23**

Multi-County Council Minutes
August 17, 2022; 11:30 am
@ Washington County Extension Office

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Sam Phillips at 11:34 a.m.

Roll Call:

Council members present answering to roll call included: Katie Albert, Mike Bruns, Wesley Gozia, Julia Miessner, Galen Mahle, Herb Williams. Present via Zoom were Elaine McNamara and Sam Phillips. Staff in attendance were Jordee Koehler, Chris Lueking, Kara Boozer, Jamie Malhandt and Rhonda Mueller.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2022:

A motion was made by Galen Mahle with a second by Wesley Gozia to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

Introduction of members and guests:

Council members and Extension Staff members introduced themselves to other members in attendance.

Council Orientation:

Jordee shared with the council that their role on council is to serve as a sounding board of what the focus needs are in the various communities. The terms consist of two 2-year terms. She will share a council orientation power point with the new members to answer any further questions that they may have on the advisory board.

Extension Updates – County Director:

Jordee informed that there has been a lot of hiring done in the past. The Unit is in the process of conducting a Needs Assessment on the Grand Challenges (Food, Economy, Environment, Community and Health). The Assessment will be a year-long process which will include surveys, focus groups and one on one interviews.

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The November council meeting will feature a Focus Group conducted by the Educators. It is hoped that the data can be analyzed in early Spring.

The open positions currently in the unit are: Youth Development Educator, Bond County 4-H Extension Program Coordinator, Jefferson County Office Support, Jefferson County Extra Help Office Support, Marketing Program Coordinator concentrating on Multi-Media Strategies, Snap Education Educator (housed in Jefferson County), Snap-Education Community Outreach Worker (housed in Jefferson).

4-H Youth Development – Kara Boozer

The 4-H Program Staff have just “survived” fair. The unit conducts 5 fairs in four weeks. The enrollment numbers are up since Covid. They are now working on the Show of Champions. The show will include all county first place winners, Grand Champion, Reserve Champion and Inspire Award Winners from the five counties. It will be held at the Marion County Fairgrounds on August 26 and 27. This will be a new unit opportunity which the 4-Hers will be able to reflect on their state award applications and to network with other area youth in their curriculum areas.

The first full week in October will be the National 4-H week. The 4-H EPCs will be going into all 3rd grade classrooms to do presentations along with new year open house events. This will be a huge recruitment effort for the five-county area. Each county program will also hold their annual Achievement Night Program sometime between September through November to honor their 4-H achievements from last year. 4-H will also be conducting tabling events at the various festivals to promote 4-H participation.

ANR – Horticulture – Chris Lueking

Chris provided a handout showing recent activities of the Horticulture program. They are still in the middle of Garden Season. There are Community Gardens at Mt. Vernon and Salem. They have produced 439 pounds of fresh produce which has been donated to the local food pantries. Summer educational events have been held at the local Extension Offices and Communities which also feature QR Codes for additional educational opportunities. The ANR Program participated in the recent Kid’s Day at the Marion County Fair where they reached 795 youth. There was also a Back-to-School event in Jefferson County where they were able to reach 300 families. The team has also been partnering with Christ our Rock School for students to assist with the Ag and Natural Resource programs and get service hours in exchange for help in the gardens and other various assistance to the ANR program. The Summer Master Naturalist Training was recently completed for 10 new volunteers and one junior master naturalist member. This was a 10-week training course that was offered with a youth component for those that were interested in nature. These volunteers concentrated on the conservation topic of nature (soil and water, ornithology, etc.). This year featured a hybrid schedule with field trip schedule to be more flexible for the volunteers. Chris also elaborated on what the Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Programs are.

FCS – Family Consumer Science – Jaime Mahlandt

Jaime is new to Extension. The Family Consumer Science program is new to the unit and the region. Her goal is the help improve the community’s financial well-being by increasing financial literacy and helping people make good financial decisions. Her focus will be based off the results from the needs assessment because this topic area can go in so many different directions.

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SNAP – Education – Jordee Koehler

In the past the focus has been largely on Jefferson and Marion Counties due to 50% reduced health need is high in those areas. The grant is a federal grant. In the past Ashley worked a lot with schools in making changes to the lunch menus, how to bring healthier options that kids will try those things. Recently she shifted her focus to the Mobile Markets. We partner with the St. Louis Food Bank in Washington and Clinton Counties. During the pandemic SSM Health stepped up to assist in Jefferson and Marion Counties. During Covid, things shifted to a drive-up market. The Drive-up market does not allow for the education component which the education component is a big part of the Extension Mission. There was a lot of good discussion on this subject. Jordee is looking to make a decision on the direction of Mobile Markets in the Spring of 2023.

Financial Update:

Jordee has been conducting the annual Extension Board meetings. She indicated that the current CPI rate is 9.1%. The meetings she has conducted so far are:

Clinton – remain status quo

Washington – 2% increase

Marion – remain status quo

Jefferson – sent a 4% increase request

Bond – meeting being held on 8/17/22 @ 6:00 pm

Members reviewed the FY22 Final Fiscal Report. A motion was made by Eileen McNamara with a second by Herb Williams to approve the report. Motion carried.

Members then review the July report from FY23.

A motion was made by Galen Mahle with a second by Wesley Gozia to have the signatories for the Washington County In/Out Account being Jordee Koehler, Christina Lueking and Kara Boozer. Motion Carried.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business for Discussion.

New Business:

Election of Officers

A motion was made by Wesley Gozia with a second by Galen Mahle to keep the same slate of Officers – those being Chairman – Sam Phillips, Vice-Chair – Dee DeMoss and Secretary – Natalie Wellen. Motion carried.

Jordee announced that Assistant Director, Doug Harlan will be serving as Interim County Director in her absence during her maternity leave.

The next council meeting will be held on November 9 @ 11:30 at the Jefferson County Extension Office.

A motion was made by Wesley Gozia with a second by Katie Albert to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

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