

Unit 27 Council Meeting
 September 21, 2023
 11:00a.m. – 1:00 pm

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Ruby Lingle at 11:13am. Verbal introductions were made and voluntary civil rights information slips and meeting sign-in sheet were circulated around the room.

Council members present:

Alexander/Pulaski	Johnson	Massac	Union
Denna Williams Ethyn Bradley		Megan Henderson Orlando McReynolds Cheryl Vanderford James Walton	Kristen Cameron Kendell Boysen Ruby Lingle Chuck Weilmuenster

Staff present: County Director Johnson, Monica Meyer, Vickie Taylor, Amy Shuck, Kristi Stout, John Shadowens.

Meeting minutes from May 25, 2023, were reviewed. Motion made by Cheryl Vanderford and seconded by James Walton to approve prior minutes. Motion carried.

Council Business

○ **Elect Officers**

- Current officers: President Ruby Lingle (Union Co)
 Vice- President Cheryl Vanderford (Massac Co)
 Secretary Chesley Williams (Johnson Co)
 Financial Reporter Ethyn Bradley (Pulaski/Alexander Co)
- Nomination made by Kendell Boysen for Ruby Lingle to serve as President.
- Nomination made by Kendell Boysen for Cheryl Vanderford to serve as Vice-President.
- Nomination made by Kendell Boysen for Chesley Williams to serve as Secretary.
- Nomination made by Kendell Boysen for Ethyn Bradley to serve as Financial Reporter.

Motion made by Kendell Boysen to approve all nominations, seconded by Chuck Weilmuenster. Motion carried. Brief discussion was held to acknowledge and approve Ruby Lingle to sign forms to send to campus with officer designations.

○ **Proposed Check Signers**

County Director Johnson gave a brief explanation of the in/out checking accounts maintained by each County office and the purpose of dual check signers. Motion was made by Kristen Cameron, seconded by James Walton for the following individuals to serve as check signers at the specified County office. Motion carried.

Alexander/Pulaski	Johnson	Massac	Union
Jody Johnson Sarita Sawyer Dena Wood	Jody Johnson Tiffany Stewart Kristi Stout	Jody Johnson Norma Korte Vickie Taylor	Jody Johnson Linda Poston Anne Townsend Dena Wood

- A quick review of the campus holiday schedule was conducted by attendees to be aware of anticipated office closures.

- Extension Board – Each County Board is to appoint someone to the Extension Board, County Director Johnson will work with those Boards to request their appointments made. Officers from Unit Council are asked to serve on Extension Board, two male and two female are preferred. Ethyn Bradley, Chuck Weilmuenster, Amy Johnson and Emily Myrick are planning to serve. The next Extension Board meeting will be scheduled in February prior to the Unit Council meeting.

- Open Meetings Act Training – Reminder to complete online training, County Director Johnson is meeting with Josie Eason in October to help her with training if anyone wants to join.

County Extension Director Report

- Plan of Work / New issues or concerns in community – The current Plan of Work was reviewed, core areas being Community, Health, Environment, Economy and Food and all the subcategories of each.

- Budget – Per correspondence from Harry Clore, Finance Director for Extension, Extension has received all money owed by the State of Illinois and is in the best financial position since he has held his position. Smith Lever funds continue to be received from campus allocations. Updated account balances were provided and discussed with no worries or concerns offered. County Director Johnson expressed thanks to County Commissioners and the County Boards in their continued payments and cooperation.

- Civil Rights and efforts to reach underserved audiences – staff continue to receive monthly reminders to update documentation. Unit was audited in Spring 2023 with minimal findings.

- 3 vacancies – 4-H EPC, SNAP Educator and SNAP Community Worker in Union Co.

- General updates
 - MY PI Illinois – Trecca McConnell resigned, and a replacement is needed, Council members are asked to share recommendations.

- AmeriCorps Vista – two Vista working in Vienna and Egyptian, hoping to add up to 8 additional schools and Vista workers.

- R3 grant – \$50,000 for work in Cairo, Mounds and Harrisburg; Kingdom Ties and Tees entrepreneur program and junior law enforcement Explorer Program are beginning in Cairo because of this grant work.

- Needs Assessment for the Unit is being circulated thru mid-October, Council members are asked to help circulate.

- HEAT project update – Cairo grocery store is running and doing well and mobile food pantry is on the move, plans are for 2nd Wednesday of the month in Ullin and 3rd Wednesday of the month in New Haven; site address and times TBD; future dates/times/locations to be reviewed.

- One Shawnee will host a regional summit at Vienna HS on October 6 for local government officials/staff, local non-profits, community leaders, volunteers and anyone wanting to take action in improving living or working in southernmost Illinois.

- Unit Reports

- CED – John Shadowens, Destenie Sullivan – John referred back to HEAT project Updates; summarized work on a Healthy Food Financing Initiative (with HEAT project partners) with a November 3 deadline; upcoming presentation with County Director Johnson, County Director Messmer and SNAP Educator Lizz Cooley-Questelle in Billings, MT for work on the HEAT project and food access activities; John and Sean Park (RISE Market) are receiving “Outstanding Public Servant” awards for their work; John is also working on numerous regional and state projects. Discussion was held concern donation of deer meat to food pantries, Council members advised of the “Deer Donation Program” and attempts to gain support from IDNR to help with processing fees.

- NREE – Erin Garrett, Anne Townsend – staff not present as they are hosting the State Master Naturalist conference this week, for the first time in Southern IL at Touch of Nature in Makanda. Council members are directed to the report provided in their packet.

- SNAP/INEP staff – Patsy Bishop, Shannon Pulliam, Sarita Sawyer, Tiffney Stewart, Toni K Wright, Lizz Cooley-Questelle, Lacey Barnhill - SNAP staff continue to perform work and will be highlighted at the Council meeting in February. Council members are directed to the report provided in their packet.

- 4-H Youth Development staff – Kristi Stout, Vickie Taylor, Dena Wood – Figures and statistics were shared which showed that 4-H had growth or sustained enrollment in all counties.

Shawnee and Brookport 4th thru 6th graders participated in Health Rocks programs that ended in May with Teen Teachers helping present the curriculum.

4-H coordinated with the R3 grant to host a block party in Mounds to reach youth that may not be participating in 4-H activities.

General Shows were held in the four county offices in June and 150 youth showed 361 projects with 54 projects receiving state fair delegations or alternate nominations.

Youth participated in a horticulture and floriculture exhibition in July in Union Co. with 4 youth receiving ribbons for champion and reserve champion.

July-August consisted of all Unit 27 county fairs, livestock shows and 4-H Celebrations. Farm Credit offered gift cards to members that attended all 4-H Celebration events this year.

Shooting Sports has multiple competition, workshops and events scheduled in September-October, all dates were posted and shared with Council members. Shooting Sports needs an archery instructor, Chuck Weilmuenster recommended Kristi contact his preacher at First Christian Church in Anna.

4-H staff plans to meet one night at each county office to assist youth in completing their Experience Awards applications.

Kristi discussed the possibility of offering a Unit wide field trip for 4-H families to Washington DC and New York. More information to be shared as discussions and plans continue.

Discussion was held focusing on 4-H premium awards, amounts and how they are awarded based on projects. Historically the awards were divided per county and amounts depended on enrollment number in that county. Kristi proposed the idea of awards being given on a Unit basis and all projects having the same financial award opportunity. Discussion held on pros and cons, motion made by Chuck Weilmuenster and seconded by Ethyn Bradley to combine all funds and make all projects monetarily equal Unit wide. Motion carried and all 4-H premiums will be disbursed on a Unit calculated basis moving forward.

○ Other information/questions – all upcoming dates/events can be found on our Facebook page and home page at <https://extension.illinois.edu/ajmpu/events>.

Dates and Times of future council meetings

- December 7, 2023 @ Vienna – 11am-1pm
- February 15, 2024 @ Vienna - 11am-1pm
- May 23, 2024 @ Vienna - 11am-1pm

Motion to adjourn made by James Walton and seconded by Deanna Williams. No objections, meeting adjourned at 12:59pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Meyer

Unit 27 - Office Support Specialist

For Unit 27 Unit Council secretary, Chesley Williams