



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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

Multi-County Council Minutes
January 17, 2024; 11:30 am
@ Clinton County Extension Office

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Sam Phillips at 11:32 a.m.

Roll Call:

Council members present answering to roll call included: Elaine McNamara, Nick Suess, Julie Brooks, Natalie Shook, Jamie Storey, Sam Phillips, Dee DeMoss, Matt Hornbostel, and Julie Karmeier. Staff in attendance were Jordee Koehler, Amber Heern, Lauren Sharp, Kara Boozer, Jamie Mahlandt and Rhonda Mueller.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2023:

A motion was made by Elaine McNamara with a second by Dee DeMoss to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

County Director Updates:

Jordee introduced the new Youth Development Educator, Lauren Sharp.

Educator Program Updates:

Jamie Mahlandt – Family Consumer Science

They will be doing a Money Basics Webinar Series which will run for 6 monthly sessions from February 14 – July 10. FCS will be partnering with ANR to present a Gardening & Grocery Planning Workshop in the Trenton and Greenville area. On April 19 the Youth Development Team and the FCS Team will be partnering together at the 8th Grade Career Day at Kaskaskia College presenting the Welcome To The Real World Simulation. All five of the counties in our unit will be represented at the conference. Jamie indicated that Volunteers will be needed due to the large number of students that will be in attendance.

Kara Boozer – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-ED)

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Kara has been in the Educator role for SNAP-ED since October. She is in the final month of her on-boarding. Jordee has allowed Kara to create her plan of action as far as the needs of the community and how they relate to the Unit's Plan of Work. She is currently onboarding a new Community Outreach Worker in the Jefferson County Office. They have a new partnership with the Sandoval Shalom Food Pantry and the Primary Center in Mt. Vernon.

Some programs that she is looking into offering are:

- Deer Donation Program
- Pork Donation Program
- Cafeteria Professional Development Opportunity
- Wellness Policy Workshop (all schools are required to have)

Kara is currently looking for a forklift for the Park Avenue agency. She is reaching out to businesses and also looking for grants.

Amber Heern & Lauren Sharp – 4-H/Youth Development

There is one staffing vacancy in the unit (Marion County).

An Update of what is happening in each county was given via a handout flyer.

Unit Update

- 12 individuals attended the Junior Leadership Conference
- 6 individuals attended the Livestock Skill-a-thon
- 4 individuals attended the Spirit of Lincoln LEAD Academy

Upcoming Events:

Public Speaking Workshop (Unit)

Leadership Workshop (Unit)

Passport Party (Unit)

Volunteer Hullabaloo (partnering with Ag&NL team)

Welcome to the Real World

Family Fun Day

Animal Clinic/YQCA Training (Bond County)

Jr. Master Naturalist (partnering with AG&NL and SNAP-ED team) (between May – September)

Robotics – The unit is getting Lego Spike Prime kits – Amber is taking a course with Carnegie Mellon to be trained on them.

The unit is working with Unit 26 to host a Southern Regional 4-H Showcase at the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds. The General Projects show will be held on August 17 and the livestock on August 23 and August 24. This will give more opportunities for the counties in the South to have an additional exhibit opportunity.

Trying to partner more with the Regional Office of Education and work with Salt & Light Homeschool Group.

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Jordee Koehler – Ag & Natural Resources

Looking at having a youth component to the adult version of the Master Naturalist Training.

Currently registration is open for the Master Gardener Training. Currently there are 5 individuals registered so that needs to grow or it will be cancelled. The program is now a hybrid approach which lasts for 12 weeks. Sam recommends getting the word out by radio and by spreading the word at churches or ministerial alliances.

Chris has also recently been certified as a Pond Management Specialist.

Financial Update:

Following the last Council meeting Jordee and Sam received notification that the Clinton County Board had cut the Clinton County Extension by 20% (\$33,000) for FY25 going into effect July 1. They have met with the Clinton County Board Chair knowing that there were concerns. Jordee has responded to the correspondence that Mr. Knolhoff sent indicating the reduction but has not received a response to date from her rebuttal.

Jordee would like for the April Council meeting to be a time to get a plan of what the upcoming requests for FY26 for each of the 5 counties.

The demands that were requested in the Clinton County notification are:

- *increase program support and drive increased participation in 4-H
- *increase participation rates in existing programs
- *improve program offerings to increase accessibility and attendance
- *eliminate programs that have little value to the community and introduce new programs
- *eliminate bureaucracy and reduce strict policy

Old Business:

There was no old business for discussion.

New Business:

Everyone was invited to the Jefferson County 11th Annual Home & Outdoor Expo.

The next council meeting will be held on April 17, 2024 @ 11:30 at the Clinton County Extension Office.

A motion was made by Julie Karmeier with a second by Elaine McNamara to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.