Extension Council Minutes

March 30, 2023

* Welcome and Introductions
  + Cleo McManaway, Barb McGrew, Nicole Haverback, Sandy Croft, Doug McCain, Norbert Soltwedel, Jason Warfel, Michelle Fombelle, Carl Baker, and Kasey Kemme
* Public Comment – none
* Approval of Minutes – Barb McGrew, 2nd Sandy Croft
* Old Business
* Statewide Needs Assessment- needs done by November
  + Staff will be working out to Extension council, stakeholders to ask questions, etc.
  + Staffing – Continue to work to fill vacancies within the Unit
* Broadband Update
  + Feb 28 – presented to SCIRPDC to 28 people.
  + Last week March 22 – Nancy came down and presented to Rotary about 40 people then here with 22 people to listen to broadband to work on bringing it to the counties.
  + Underserved, and not served households and businesses
  + As more people get on, it slows way down.
  + Virtual webinar for government officials
  + Andy Johnson – very interested in putting together a coalition to pursue bringing better service to our community. When you send children home w/ computer to do homework and if they don’t have internet, the work doesn’t get done. Norbert wants Extension to be a part of this possible coalition.
  + SNAP Eligible – may get a possible discount on internet services
  + Doug going to ask neighbor what service provider they have
* DEIA
  + Effingham Public Library – Cultural Awareness
  + Daycare center in Effingham had 22 people.
  + DCFS requiring all childcare working to go through DEIA training (cultural awareness)

New Business

* County Director Update
  + Jasper County Office – the building we were in has been sold to a business, so we had to find a new home. Working w/ Jasper County Boards, moving into Jasper County Annex building, process of moving. Secretarial section, build kitchen, conference room, etc.
  + COAD/VOAD
    - Four counties interested
    - Community organization active in disasters – taking headache off emergency managers in the turn of disasters.
    - Working w/ three counties (Fayette, Clay, and Effingham) to start getting interest from organizations to see what they could do when disaster strikes.
    - First planning meeting is going to be April 25 in Effingham – all four counties are invited to attend to gather information.
  + Foster Care Families
    - Kasey and Carl working to create a program to bring more children in foster care into the 4-H program.
    - Check into homeless children vs foster kids? - Norbert
  + Staffing Footprint
    - Clay Office Support – Michelle Hoffmann
    - Fayette SNAP-Ed – Patty Edwards
    - Fayette Office Support – Chrissy Caudle
* Program Updates
  + SNAP-Ed:
    - Deer Donation Project Update
    - Lunch and Learn on Deer Program on April 19
  + 4-H Youth Development
    - Educator
      * YQCA – Fayette and Effingham
      * Illinois 4-H Professional Development Committee
      * Working on summer program planning in all counties.
      * Attended ROE Meeting and made contacts with numerous schools for future programming
    - Clay – Federation, North Clay Career Day, Health Jam in Clay City 4th grade, Science in the Kitchen Workshop, Candy Making Workshop, Bass Fishing Club, upcoming – Livestock Clinic, Cloverbud Camp
    - Effingham- YQCA (in person is complete), 4-H Food Drive, Creative Writing Workshop, 4-H Lawnmower, Small Engine, and Tractor School, hosted Public Speaking Contest, Dog Obedience school starts soon, Livestock Judging Team is progressing well
    - Fayette- Workshops in poultry and fibers, making club visits to meet leaders and club members, learning the ins and outs of fair, will be at Healthy Kids Day at the end of April to promote 4-H, new SPIN Club, new Community Club
    - Jasper – programming in each of the elementary grade levels, has many Federation and Ambassador members, hosted a welding workshop, Real Colors in Newton, Welcome to the Real World coming up.
  + Horticulture
    - Nothing to report
  + Watershed
    - Planning for grants to get funding, programming for summer,
* Extension Council Member Notes
  + Norbert – working with other community organizations to get them more interested in Extension. Drones – very popular within the communities, something that maybe teaches community more about them. Safety
  + Cleo – protected, wooded area – new couple running the camp. Search and rescue teams go and practice. He’s good at anything green. Pollination plot at the camp. Wildlife, fishing, etc. pass on to Megan for Bass Fishing Club.
    - Camp Walter Scott – contact Cleo for contact information
    - SPIN Club for Gardening in the future
  + Raised beds south of Effingham – are they still going on?
* Next Meeting on May 30, 2023 at 6:00 pm in person at Joe’s Pizza in Effingham
* Adjourn at 7:25 pm