

Unit 27 Council Meeting
December 7, 2023
11:00a.m. – 1:00 pm

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by County Director Johnson at 11:18am. Verbal introductions were made around the table and civil rights information slips and meeting sign-in sheets were circulated around the room.

Council members present:

Alexander/Pulaski	Johnson	Massac	Union
Josie Eason Derek Eurales Ethyn Bradley	Emily Myrick	Megan Henderson Don Robbins James Walton	Kristen Cameron Kendel Boysen Ruby Lingle Chuck Weilmuenster

Staff present: County Director Johnson, Monica Meyer, Vickie Taylor, Erin Garrett, Anne Townsend, Kristi Stout,

Meeting minutes from September 21, 2023, were reviewed. Motion made by Emily Myrick and seconded by Josie Eason to approve prior minutes. Motion carried.

Council Business

- Review of Unit Holiday Schedule set by campus – all dates acknowledged by Council
- Illinois Open Meetings Act electronic training – members directed to contact County Director Johnson with issues on training access or completion.
- Extension Board – next meeting is February 15, 2024, at 10:00 am at Johnson Co. office; County Director Johnson will contact County Boards to appoint members or attend meeting.
- County Extension Director Report
 - Unit’s Plan of Work and review of Grand Challenges, and subcategories, was completed with no new issues or concerns raised.
 - Budget- County Director Johnson reviewed each account and current balance of same, explanation gives for types of accounts, funding source(s) and use of same given with no questions or concerns.
 - Civil Rights and efforts to reach underserved audiences – Staff continues to report activities and opportunities and upload examples of each to a digital Box.com folder created by campus. Staff are given monthly reminders of topics to review and update for reporting. On

December 15, Unit 27 staff will participate in a staff development day and focus on local civil rights history in Paducah, KY.

- General updates –
 - SNAP Educator and SNAP Union Co. Community Outreach Worker remain vacant with search efforts and advertising underway; Pulaski-Alexander Co. office support interviews are scheduled for December 19; campus is offering 2024 summer intern position with more information to come later in the year.
 - MyPI Illinois – Clarissa Johnson was hired to lead the program and is currently onboarding as new staff.
 - AmeriCorps Vista – Currently have 4 Vistas in Vienna, Egyptian, Pope and Cairo
 - R3 grant – work continues in Cairo, Mounds and Harrisburg with difficulties obtaining funds from the state.
 - Staff attended 2023 annual conference in Springfield in November for two days of professional development.
 - Southern Illinois Initiative – proposal for the plan and funding will be presented to the Illinois Department of Ag Director by Government Affairs Director, Carl Baker, and Extension Director, Shelly Nickols-Richardson on December 14.

Unit Reports

- NREE – Erin Garrett, Anne Townsend – Staff present and updates given in person via slideshow; Erin summarized the 2023 activities with summaries for each program with participant number, volunteer hourly values quantified; poundage of food collected and donated by garden and summarized the Illinois State Master Naturalist conference held in Southern Illinois for the first time; updates and explanations given on invasive species and website for online information provided.
- SNAP/INEP staff – Patsy Bishop, Sarita Sawyer, Tiffney Stewart, Toni K Wright, Lizz Cooley-Questelle, Lacey Barnhill - no staff in attendance but updates were given in Council packets by written reports – Food on the Move donation updates were given by County Director Johnson and the new trailer and Tri-State Food Bank were highlighted.
- CED – John Shadowens, Destenie Sullivan - no staff in attendance but updates were given in Council packets by written reports; 4-H staff did highlight the RISE Market and invited Council to visit Cairo and shop local to support the grand efforts made by the community and CED staff to help open this store.
- 4-H Youth Development staff – Kristi Stout, Vickie Taylor, Dena Wood, Angela

Ralls – Krist and Vickie provide updates on new additional of a third team member to staff and realignment of roles and duties; additional updates were given in the written reports in the packet.

Dates and Times of future council meetings

- February 15, 2024 @ Vienna – 11am-1pm (SNAP staff)
 - May 23, 2024 @ Vienna - 11am-1pm (CED staff)
- General Discussion – County Director Johnson provided a link to upcoming events and programs.

Motion to adjourn made by Josie Eason and seconded by Derek Eurales. No objections, meeting adjourned at 12:50pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Monica Meyer
Unit 27 - Office Support Specialist
For Unit 27 Unit Council secretary, Chesley Williams