

University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting Minutes

Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties

Tuesday, April 15, 2025, via Zoom

Council Members Present: Katelyn Attig, Mike Sigwalt, Dianna Saelens, Levi Schurr, Riggins Shafer

Illinois Extension Staff Present: Kristin Bogdonas, Jenny Garner

Call to Order: Dianna Saelens called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. and called the roll.

Public Comments: Not applicable.

Previous Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting on February 18, 2025, were approved as read on a motion by Tara Mayhew and seconded by Riggins Shafer. Motion carried.

Fiscal Report:

- The Unit 7 Trust and Self-Supporting accounts ending March 31, 2025, were provided for review by Jenny Garner.
- Henry/Stark In-and-Out account has an end balance of \$5,158.77; Mercer In-and-Out account has an end balance of \$2,860.04; Rock Island In-and-Out account has an end balance of \$2,469.05.
- 4-H premium funds from summer 2024 shows have deposited in the Trust account. Staff are working to get the checks distributed to youth in early May 2025. 4-H premium funds will transfer into the three in-and-out-accounts to cover the premium checks.

Council Reports:

- Tara Mayhew indicated 14 applications were received from the Rock Island Farm Bureau scholarships.
- Dianna mentioned that Gray Matters Barn Talk that started at Augustana College has spread to all Henry and Rock Island County junior high schools. She is also creating Birth to Five resource guides for community groups.



- Mike Sigwalt reported that numbers keep going up at the Geneseo Atkinson Food Pantry. On another note, PBS' Frontline filled a documentary 10 years ago about low-income children. One of those children is working at the food pantry now and Frontline did filming for a follow-up piece.
- Katie Attig reported she recently attended a 4-H alumni event held at the John Deere & Company Demo site in Coal Valley. The event went really well.

Staff Programming Information:

- Kristin Bogdonas, nutrition and wellness educator indicated she has been receiving a lot of requests for programming for the spring and summer months. A worksite wellness education program is planned for the Rock Island Arsenal this summer as a new offering.
- Dianna Saelens referred Council members to review the Staff Reports document included in the Council packet.

Announcements:

- The unit has hired Olivia Rice as a SNAP-Ed community worker position, bringing the unit to fully staffed.
- The Henry/Stark Extension Office located in Galva opened on Mondays, effective March 31, 2025. Office hours are now Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

New Business:

- Elect Open Seats for Extension Board: Due to unforeseen circumstances resulting in Unit 7 Advisory Board member vacancies on the Extension Unit 7 Board, there is a need to replace three of the four positions. The Extension Board meetings annually to approve the unit budget. Spencer Griffin will retain his seat to represent Mercer County. The following seats were filled on a motion made by Katie Attig and seconded by Mike Sigwalt.
- University of Illinois Equal Opportunity in Employment Plan: The 2024 plan of the University of Illinois Equal Employment Opportunity was provided to Council members.
- Outgoing Council Members: Katelyn Attig, Catherine Bass, Barb Chiles, Anna Hessel, and Levi Schurr were thanked for serving on the 2024-2025 Council. Their contributions will be missed. If you know someone who might be interested in filling these open positions along with two vacated positions, please provide contact information to Jenny Garner.

- University of Illinois Extension Strategic Plan: Amanda Cole, strategy planning and implementation director, and Bobbi Lewis-Sibley, strategy planning and implementation outreach associate, presented results of the University of Illinois Extension strategic plan. The following strategic priorities were identified: community, economy, environment, food and agriculture, and health. Workgroups have established outcome measures for each of these areas.

Next Meeting: The 2025-2026 meeting schedule will be held on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom on August 19 and October 21 in 2025, and February 17 and April 21 in 2026.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Dianna Saelens and seconded by Katie Attig that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Garner