

University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting Minutes

Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties

Tuesday, October 15, 2024, via Zoom.

Council Members Present: Catherine Bass, Barb Chiles, Spencer Griffin, Janet Hill, Tara Mayhew, Dianna Saelens, Riggins Shaefer, Mike Sigwalt

Illinois Extension Staff Present: Kristin Bogdonas, Jenny Garner, Elaine Kaple, Tayler Louscher

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

Public Comments: Not applicable.

Previous Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting on August 20, 2024, were approved as read on a motion by Barb Chiles and seconded by Janet Hill. Motion carried.

Fiscal Report:

- The Unit 7 Trust and Self-Supporting accounts ending August 31, 2024, were provided for review by Jenny Garner.
- Henry/Stark In-and-Out account has an end balance of \$3,585.12; Mercer In-and-Out account has an end balance of \$777.53; Rock Island In-and-Out account has an end balance of \$1,607.93. 4-H youth continue to cash their premium checks from their projects shown during the summer of 2023.

Welcome New Council Members:

- Dianna Saelens invited Council members to introduce themselves and their affiliation with community organization, 4-H, and involvement with Illinois Extension.
- Dianna Saelens welcomed new Council members Anna Hessell, Riggins Shaefer, Mike Sigwalt, and Penny Wickert. Other new Council members, Levi Schurr and Katelyn Attig, were unable to attend the meeting due to conflicts.



Council Reports:

- Janet Hill provided an update on Black Hawk College grant submissions: one to improve education on mental health and a second to target workforce development in healthcare with an educational pathway to move low-income CNA (certified nurse practitioner) positions into RN (registered nurse) positions.
- Barb Chiles noted that Caleb Wagner a Mercer County FFA Chapter youth, was named a national finalist.
- Tara Mayhew introduced Kelly Spiece who is an agriculture literacy program coordinator and is doing well at recruiting Ag in the Classroom volunteers. The 100 Bushels for Hunger campaign is in its 15th year for Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island counties. The program partners with grain elevators where farmers can donate some of their bushels.
- Mike Sigwalt said the number people the Geneseo Annawan Food Pantry is serving continues to grow, jumping 10% from 250 to 278 in the last month.
- Catherine Bass reported that she has been working with youth on mental health, anxiety, and trauma.
- Dianna Saelens has been focused on carrying out Birth to Five's action plan.
- Spencer Griffin indicated the Soil & Water Conservation District's CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) and Equip programs should go well given the Farm Bill passes.

Staff Programming Information:

- Kristin Bogdonas and Russell Medley presented a Disaster Prep workshop at the Coal Valley Library in September and another one is planned at the Kewanee Public Library in mid-November.
- Jennifer Peterson and program coordinators have been preparing for annual awards with the community clubs.
- Tayler Louscher hosted the nutrition portion of a nutrition and feeding practices assessment module with Project Now Head Start staff. Next up is the physical activity module.
- Elaine Kaple is currently recruiting high school aged youth to participate in the new Teen Teachers training program that will launch in November and teaches leadership and teaching skills.

Announcements:

- Lyndsey Flickinger will be starting with us on September 3, 2024 as the Mercer County youth development program coordinator.
- Farewell to our Council member, Janet Hill, who has taken a position with the Illinois Department of Health and Human Services.

New Business: Illinois Extension's marketing department has developed five posters around the strategic planning framework with an overall theme of lifelong learning, lifelong impact. Composition of the posters are the mission statement and corresponding values of collaboration, credibility, inclusivity, and learning. The posters are on display at the Galva and Milan offices, and posters have been ordered for the Viola office.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Barb Chiles and seconded by Spencer Griffin that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Spencer Griffin