Unit 18 – Christian, Jersey, Macoupin and Montgomery Counties
Thursday, October 15, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Brandi Crawford, Mike Cross, Darryl Edwards, Anna Fessler, Joe Kaburick, Erin Lockwood, Katie Wilson, Jessica Jaffry (staff), Lisa Peterson (staff), Sara Marten (staff)

Call to Order – Council Chair Mindy Ward called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the April 2025 full council meeting as well as Christian, Jersey, and Montgomery Extension Board meetings were reviewed. In the April 2026 minutes, a correction was needed for the date of the October meeting (corrected from October 16 to October 15). Anna Fessler made a motion to accept all presented minutes, with the correction noted. Darryl Edwards seconded. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

Unit Updates – County Director Sara Marten shared that the unit is currently searching for an office support and 4-H coordinator in Montgomery County. The office support position closed this evening with a good group of candidates and the 4-H coordinator position closes next week. Please share with those that may be interested or eligible to apply.

Fiscal reports for both the trust and revolving accounts were reviewed. Income and expense levels in both accounts remain consistent with no major issues or concerns. Darryl Edwards made a motion to approve both fiscal reports. Mike Cross seconded. Fiscal reports approved as presented.

4-H Expansion & Review Discussion – 4-H Youth Development Educator Jessica Jaffry presented 4-H enrollment and participation information to the council. The 4-H program requires yearly review of their programming and participants and invites feedback on expanding their reach and working with new audiences.

Old Business

2026 COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD – Christian and Macoupin awards were delivered over the summer and press releases were sent to local media. Staff that nominated are coordinating with the Jersey winner (Jersey Community High School) and the Montgomery winner (Soil & Water) to deliver their awards soon. Any council member that is interested in attending should let Sara know so she can share the dates selected.

New Business

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP – Sara reviewed the current council membership list. There are not many members that have terms expiring this year, but there are still open positions on the board. Sara will be doing some recruitment this fall and winter for additional members. If anyone has suggestions, please send them to Sara or share their contact information with her.

2027 OFFICERS – Officers needed for the council include president, vice president, and secretary. The following officers were nominated and accepted their nominations for 2027. Motion passed to accept the slate, as presented.

- President Mindy Ward
- Vice President Anna Fessler
- Secretary Darryl Edwards

2027 EXTENSION COUNCIL & EXTENSION BOARD SCHEDULE – The meeting schedule for 2027 was reviewed. There is one remaining 2026 meeting held in Macoupin for their extension board meeting, prior to the county board budget hearings. The full council will meet throughout the year and each extension board will meet with their county-specific members and invited county board members.

Unit Council – Thursday, January 21, 2027 @ 7:00 PM
Unit Council – Thursday, April 15, 2027 @ 7:00 PM
Jersey County Extension Board – Thursday, June 24, 2027 @ 6:30 PM
Montgomery County Extension Board – Monday, July 26, 2027 @ 6:30 PM
Christian County – Monday, August 19, 2027 @ 6:30 PM
Unit Council – Thursday, October 21, 2027 @ 7:00 PM
Macoupin County Extension Board – Thursday, November 18 @ 6:30 PM

PROGRAM & IMPACT REPORTS – Sara shared a brief overview of the unit's plan of work achievements from the past year. Jessica Jaffry and Lisa Peterson, Food & Nutrition Educator, shared a brief overview of some of their recent programs and impacts.

With no other business, Anna Fessler made a motion to adjourn. Katie Wilson seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

DRAFT