



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

University of Illinois Extension
Logan, Menard, and Sangamon Counties
Extension Council & Board Meeting Agenda
January 18, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

Sorrento's Pizzeria, 614 Broadway St., Lincoln, IL 62656

- **Call to Order** – Vice President Clay Irwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- **Council Members, Staff, and Guest Present:**
William Kennett, Clay Irwin, Elise Ransdell, Zach Dixon, Daniel Fulton, Steve Holliday, Ellie Wrage, Charlotte Judd, Jayden Wheat, Kindall Helton. Extension Staff: Terri Casey & Reagen Tibbs. Guests: Alyssa Roede, Michelle Bauer, Sharon Kennett, Jason Wrage, Holly Fulton, John Ransdell, Natalie Holiday, Dawn Wheat, Ashton Irwin.
- **Previous Meeting Minutes**
Council members review the minutes from the October 2023 meeting. As there were no changes or additions to the minutes, they will be filed as submitted.
- **Introductions of Members and Guests**
Those present took a moment to introduce themselves and their connection to Extension.
- **New Council Members**
MOTION: A motion was made to appoint Daniel Fulton and Steve Holliday to the Extension Council to serve a two-year term by Clay Irwin and seconded by Elise Ransdell. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Open Meetings Act Training Requirement**
Casey explained that because Extension is a public entity, they are required to follow the rules of the open meetings act which was established to ensure that meetings were held publicly and in an open manner. The training is pretty straight forward and is offered for free on-line with the State of Illinois. You only need to complete this training ONCE and it is good for any public boards or council that require it.

All Council members who have not already completed this training will need to complete this training. Once a member has completed the training, they should send Casey either a hard copy of their certificate of completion to the Extension office or send a digital copy to her via email. This training must be done within 90 days of today. Information a link to the online training can be found here:
<https://foiapac.ilag.gov/>
- **Financial/Fiscal Updates**
Casey was pleased to announce that campus will be utilizing state Extension funds to assist local units in offsetting the cost of professional development for staff. The amount Units receive will be based on the number of Extension staff each unit has and more information will be forthcoming. This will greatly assist Units in freeing up more funds for local programming needs.

- **Program Updates**

Casey handed out staff program reports. She highlighted the increased numbers of 4-H membership and show entries that happened in all three counties in 2023. She credited this growth with having filled the open 4-H positions this year and the dedication of the staff, as well as the commitment of club leaders and the 4-H families.

- **Staffing Update**

Casey gave a staffing update. She was pleased to announce that Extension has hired Reagen Tibbs from Logan County as the new Commercial Ag educator for the unit. Reagen Tibbs was present at the meeting and introduced himself. He just completed his Master's in Agribusiness from ISU and he started on January 3, 2024. Reagen is off to a great start and has already begun reaching out to and meeting with area stakeholders and producers. Casey is very excited to bring back local staff to support our ag community.

She was also pleased to announce that Extension had hired Dr. Michelle Norberto-Whipple as the new 4-H Youth Development Educator, Metro Springfield Area. She started on Tuesday, January 16 and will be attending the next Council meeting in March in Petersburg. Michelle will be instrumental in helping Extension to reach new and underserved youth in Springfield. Casey is very excited to have her join our team.

Casey also mentioned that they currently have a SNAP-Ed Community Worker vacancy in Sangamon County and will be posting the position soon.

- **Reaching New Audiences/Meeting Community Need**

Casey mentioned that there is currently an additional open seat on the council, and she is seeking diverse voices to join our Extension Council, especially those who represent underserved audiences, as well as audiences most at risk and in need of services in the metro Springfield area. She asked the council that if they know of someone who could represent these audiences and whose experience would be helpful, to please reach out to her.

- **Set Future Meeting Dates**

The Third Thursday of January, March, June, and October.

Thursday, March 21, 2024 – 7 PM (Petersburg, Menard County Extension Office)

Thursday, June 20, 2024 – 7 PM (Springfield, Sangamon County Extension Office)

Thursday, October 17, 2024 – 7 PM (Lincoln, Logan County Extension Office)

- **Public Input**

There was no public input.

- **Adjournment**

MOTION made by Ellie Wrage seconded by Daniel Fulton. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.