



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting

Serving Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, and Wayne counties

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Edwards County Farm Bureau Meeting Room

15 S. 5th Street

Albion, IL 62806

6 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Doug Raber, Justine Basnett, Paul Bruinsma, Michelle Piller (via Zoom), Lily Simpson, Julie Clodfelter, Tonya Potts, Matthew St. Ledger, Seth Clodfelter, Kim Fisher, Andrea Puckett (via Zoom)

Members Absent: Haleigh Buchanan, Karissa Anderson, Jim Brewer, Megan Daughtery

Staff Members Present: Tara Buerster, Katie Bell, Samantha Gaither

CALL TO ORDER

Kim Fisher called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January 29, 2025 meeting were reviewed by the council. Doug Raber made a motion to accept the minutes as reviewed, Justine Basnett seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tara Buerster presented the Unit 25 Financial Report, reviewing donations, grants, and expenses with council members.

OLD BUSINESS

Open Meetings Act Training: All council members are required to take the training. At this time Seth Clodfelter is the only council member that has not yet completed the training.

NEW BUSINESS

- Wabash County Office: Unit 25 will be leasing the connecting building to the current office to expand space for the county office. Beginning in May the Wabash County office will be open full time, 5 days a week.
- Council Vacancies for 2025-2026 term: Edwards County will have 1 vacancy. Lawrence County will have 1 vacancy. Wabash County will have 2 vacancies. Wayne County will have 2 vacancies.
- County Board meetings: Tara, Samantha, and Katie are in the process of attending County Board meetings to get new year agreements signed.
- Unit Needs Assessment: The council was presented a list of questions and asked to discuss a select few of the questions regarding topics in community, economy, environment, food and agriculture, health, and technology and discovery. Council members discussed the biggest needs in each of their communities based on the questions selected by the Extension staff members.

ENGAGING DIVERSE AUDIENCES

Council members reviewed how to reach more diverse audiences during the discussions of the Unit Needs Assessment.

STAFF REPORTS

County Director: Tara Buerster discussed her recent and upcoming travel. She reviewed current staff vacancies and offers, some new programming opportunities she is working on, and the plans for the 2 interns coming to the Unit this summer.

Youth Development Educator: Samantha Gaither discussed the programming she and the EPC's are offering in each county. She talked to the council members about the success of the Health Fest she has completed in one county and plans to offer it in other counties.

Local Foods Small Farm Educator: Katie Bell gave a quick overview of the programs she is currently working on in the communities. She has also been assisting with some 4-H programming when needed. She also discussed her recent and upcoming travel plans for the Unit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next Unit 25 Extension Council Meeting will be May 7, 2025 at 6:00, in the Edwards County Farm Bureau meeting room.

ADJOURN

Julie Clodfelter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seth Clodfelter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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