



Extension Council Meeting Minutes-PENDING APPROVAL

Time and Place: A meeting of the Extension Council Board was held on Thursday, June 5, 2025, at the Moultrie-Douglas County Extension Office.

Participants: The following members were in attendance: Kelly Barringer, Gary Gergeni, Scott Seegmiller, Tom Webb, Janet Blade, Travis Phelps, Elizabeth Mitsdarffer, Bristole Zimmerman, Tim Morse, and Jessie Streit.

Guests: Krista Houk, 4-H Youth Development Educator and Jane Rademacher, Marketing Coordinator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm and a quorum of the Board was present. Tom Webb called the meeting to order.

Approval of March 5, 2025: The March 5, 2025, minutes are accepted as true and correct

Moved: Tim Morse

Seconded: Kelly Barringer

Motion carried

Program Spotlight

- Krista Houk, 4-H Youth Development Educator provided a trivia game about 4-H and 4-H fair entries. She shared fair schedules and discussed various 4-H activities, including livestock shows and visual arts entries. The game covered topics such as poultry entries in Shelby County, the location of the lawn mower driving contest, and the inclusion of llama and alpaca divisions in the Cumberland County fair.
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Committee Reports:

- Fiscal
 - Jessie reported that SNAP-Ed funding, which supports educators, community outreach workers, and various programs, including deer donation and produce partnerships, is at risk of elimination in the current reconciliation proposal. She explained that the program provides significant benefits, including 137,000 pounds of fresh produce and educational programs on healthy living, and noted that supporters are lobbying to maintain the funding. While a backup plan is being considered if the funding is cut, Jessie emphasized that it's too early to develop detailed contingency plans since the proposal is still in the legislative process and more information is expected by July 4th.
 - The President's proposed budget may reduce Smith-Lever funding by 45%, impacting funds available for leases and non-SNAP-Ed staff salaries. To address these potential funding cuts, Jessie is exploring new revenue streams, including a "gift of grain" fundraiser with local foundations and farmers. Despite these challenges, the state budget remains stable, with a slight increase in agricultural premiums for fair participants.



Old Business:

- Jessie provided updates on open positions, including an office support specialist role and two SNAP community outreach worker positions that are currently unfilled due to uncertain funding.

New Business:

- Presentation of Slate of Officers
The membership committee proposed officer recommendations for the current council year (Jan-Dec 2025):
Chair- Tom Webb
Vice Chair- Travis Phelps
Secretary- Elizabeth Mitsdarffer

Motion: Tom Webb Seconded: Janet Blade Motion carried

- Needs Assessment
 - Jessie led a workshop on needs assessment, focusing on strategic priorities and signature initiatives across community, economy, environment, and other areas, asking participants to identify pressing issues in their respective areas. Issues identified: challenges in small towns, volunteering and family challenges, rural workforce and economic issues, AI ethics, cost of production, etc.
- Committee Structure Review
 - The group discusses committee structures and decides to keep membership as a standing agenda item while pausing other committees. They agree to rotate meeting locations if attendance improves.
- Other
 - Jessie will update and share a spreadsheet of county representatives.

Executive Session: NONE

Public Comments: NONE

Adjourn: The meeting concludes with expressions of gratitude for participation and a motion to adjourn. Meeting ended at 7:52 pm.

NEXT MEETING: September 4, 2025 | 6 pm | Location: TBD