

**University of Illinois Extension – Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam
Unit Council Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.**

Meeting Held at IVCC, C316

The June 17, 2025 meeting of the Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Extension Unit Council was called to order by Monico Nunez.

Attendance- Francis Morse, Steve Tuftie, Douglas Stockey, Arratta Znaniecki, Brad Lindstrom, and Debbie Buffington

Staff – Extension County Director Erin Orwig, Youth Development Educator Shasta Hladovcak, Youth Development EPC-Bureau County Sarah Poignant

Minutes for March 18, 2025:

Arratta Znaniecki moved to accept minutes as written. Brad Lindstrom 2nd. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Brad Lindstrom moved to accept as presented. Steve Tuftie 2nd. Motion carried.

Youth Development Update:

Shasta Hladovcak presented updates for the youth development program. She handed out a newsletter with highlights from each county's programs as well as unit wide programs. Shasta highlighted the upcoming drone and hiking SPIN clubs. Included in the handout was an overview of the Beyond Ready focus for 4-H. It is a national initiative with the goal to get kids ready for the path they choose whether it is college, civic engagement, or entrepreneurship. Lydia Hardy, Bureau county and Meghan Penoyer, LaSalle county were in attendance to present on how their leadership activities. Lydia is very active in Federation, the 2025 Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Team, and has traveled to Washington D.C. to advocate for 4-H. Meghan was a 10-year member of 4-H and now serves as LaSalle county's Federation leader. She is working to build up the horse workshops for her county.

Organizational Reports –

Finance

Erin Orwig reported that federal funding for SNAP-Ed is proposed to be eliminated. If that happens it would not only affect the SNAP-Ed staff positions, but also about \$51,000 in rent, county director salary, and office support specialist salary. It is proposed to close the IVCC office and eliminate extra help staff to counter those loses. Federal funding for Smith Lever was

reduced by 45% in Trump's budget but was held steady in the budget proposed by Congress. Campus has a strong feeling that Smith Lever funding will remain steady. If Smith Lever would be reduced that would affect rent and educator's salaries due to it paying 30%. Erin did report that the FY26 budget has been submitted to campus.

Program Reports (reported by Erin Orwig, newsletter emailed)

- 4-H & Youth Development, Shasta Hladovcak
- Illinois Nutrition Education/SNAP-Ed Program, Patrobas Wafula
- Ag in the Classroom, Katharine Girone
- Nutrition & Wellness Education, Susan Glassman
- Agriculture Update, Emily Hansen

Outreach Efforts

In partnership with IVCC, over 800 plants were distributed at food pantries in all four counties. This was the first year for plants to be distributed in Bureau and LaSalle counties. They were provided to Sheffield, Hall Township, and Tri-County in Bureau and Mendota and Ottawa Food Basket in LaSalle. Illinois Junior Chef programs have been held in Manlius (Bureau Valley) and Sheffield with Streator, Mendota and Spring Valley yet to come.

Old Business-

There was no old business to report.

New Business-

- Ashley Baron resigned on April 30.
- Interviews held for the Office Support Associate position June 10 and 11 and all paperwork has been submitted. Erin is hoping an offer will be made next week.
- 3 Year Plan of Work due Fall 2025
 - Key informant surveys will be conducted this summer. The QR code is included in the packet.
 - Internal Needs Assessment will be done by staff at the April staff meeting.
- Open houses were held June 9, 10, and 11. Staff were pleased with the turn out and the engagement. Each location was successful in either recruiting new volunteers as 4-H show judges or instructors.

Other/Special Considerations:

Location: Next meeting is September 23, 2025 at 5:30pm at IVCC, CTC 124 or 125.

Francis Morse moved to adjourn the meeting. Brad Lindstrom seconded – motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Erin Orwig