

Unit 24 – University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting

May 17, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. via Zoom/In-person –
Approved 8-4-2022

Call to order

Unit 24 Extension Council meeting on May 17, 2022, was called to order at 6:06 p.m. Stacy Phillips.

Council members present

Stacy Phillips, Douglas Patton, Kim Bainbridge, and Jennifer Parker

Staff present

Angie Messmer, Sheila Stamer, John Shadowens, Bronwyn Aly, Liz CooleyQuestelle, and Melissa Wilson

Council members absent

Natalie Bonnell, Tony Eckert, Shelley Friend, Holly Healy, Kate Miller, Lisa Miller, Hank Oldham, Jimmy Richey, Donna Rumsey, Mallory Thompson, and Alex Watkins

Minutes from February 3, 2021

Motion to approve the February minutes by Stacy Phillips, Second by Douglas Patton; All in Favor – Motion Carried.

FY22 3rd Quarter Report – Trust

Fiscal report was reviewed. Motion made to approve the fiscal report by Kim Bainbridge, Second by Jennifer Parker - Motion Carried. Angie informed the council that FY22 agreements were slightly reduced due to COVID, lack of HEA funds, etc. For FY23, however, some have increased. We did not want to ask for increases from the county boards or other entities as times have been difficult for everyone.

Program Updates

Bronwyn Aly, Local Food Systems & Small Farms Educator, provided flyers from her recent Twilight Series. The series will be held on farms in Southern Illinois. The series on May 16 was at Little River Farm in New Haven and she had 35-40 attendees. The farm hosts small



hydroponics for strawberries, lettuce, and tomatoes. She is conducting research on biological insect control from the DSAC high tunnels and has a program scheduled for June 23rd. The next series will be held on June 20 at Glacier's End in Johnston City, and they focus on specialty crops and cottage foods and specialize in preserving food and beverages primarily sourced from their orchards and gardens. The other two series in July (11th) and August (15th) are livestock related. She assisted Unit 27 with a community garden in Cairo and installed an irrigation system to help with maintaining their water system.

Lizz Cooley-Questelle, SNAP Ed Educator, introduced herself. She provides SNAP-Ed support to the EPC and Community Workers. Lacey Barnhill, EPC, and new hires Nanci Berger and Terra Russell (both Community Workers) will be providing programming in the school. Lizz has assisted with the community garden in Carmi and in the food pantries as well. She is working on grants for gardens and video demos for recipes. She is providing healthy education to the tristate food banks and increasing partnerships within the communities. Proposals for mobile food distribution is being worked on. A food recovery program is being discussed in local cafeterias. She and John have been working together on the HEAT grant.

John Shadowens, Community Economic Development Visiting Educator, informed the council that he has been working with the HEAT grant in Gallatin County and in Cairo. He has been assessing educational needs for the local area. The community survey received 202 responses addressing access to groceries in rural areas. There is a real need to prioritize food access to the poor and the elderly. Mobile markets in Kentucky may be shadowed for Southern Illinois. Hometown mobile apps are also being utilized that creates a way to make transporting easier for families, so they do not have to travel themselves.

Melissa Wilson, 4-H Youth Development Educator, informed the council that summer programming is scheduled within the unit that will focus on healthy living, gardening, cooking. Programming is scheduled at the youth high tunnel, local libraries, and other community outreaches. In June and July, the 4-H exhibitions are coming up in all counties. She also informed the council that we held our second virtual Stewardship Week Event with 39 classrooms and 650 students. We provided 23 videos for the students as well as program material that we delivered to the schools. Students across the country will be able to access the videos so this exciting. We hope to hold this event in person in 2023. She and Bronwyn will send out surveys to the classrooms with responses due back in August and will share their feedback.

Staff Updates

Angie announced the hiring of the following:

Terra Russell – White County SNAP Ed Community Worker

Nanci Berger – Saline County SNAP Ed Community Worker

Lacey Barnhill – Extension Program Coordinator, SNAP

Michelle Maze – Office Support Assistant – DSAC

Office Support Assistant -White County – we have two applicants to interview

SNAP Ed Community Worker – Pope-Hardin – this position has been eliminated at this time

Adrian Stout – Extra-help grounds maintenance for DSAC

Rachel Lands – Extra-help – 4H in Saline County

Emilee Cox – Extra-help – 4H in Hamilton County

Calvin Griffith, Gabe Duncan, Gracie Markus – Extra-help – AG Greenhouse

Council replacements / retirees

We have seven vacancies to fill on the council. If you know of someone who is willing to serve, please let Angie and Sheila know. Sheila informed the council that the extension council forms are due to the Regional Office by June 15th.

Civil Rights / Compliance review discussion

Angie informed the council that the next Civil Rights review is due in 2023. This is a process to ensure requirements are met and accommodations are met. All volunteers complete the demographics form.

County Director Updates

DSAC - Angie informed the council that a proposal is under review that will provide federal dollars to build an arena and additional greenhouses at DSAC. The proposal will also increase educational opportunities for livestock and 4-H families and will be used region-wide. We hope to increase our participation and provide less travel for our 4-H members by providing the arena for shows. The proposal will also provide an educational building with a commercial kitchen. A decision will be made later in August or September of 2022. R3 Grant – Angie informed the council that the taxes from cannabis sales will be used for youth development and new opportunities for our area. Angie updated the council that the Whitetail Camp is still set for October 1st and 2nd at DSAC. This is a 2-day hunter course that will be hands-on training provided by local people with expertise on how to use duck calls, how to tie knots for fishing lures, utilizing gun safety, shooting sports, and other educational activities. Funding is provided by the IL Dept. of Natural Resources. Southern Seven Health Dept. will set up a Wheels on Wellness (WOW) van at DSAC on July 20th and will provide rural health initiative. They will conduct blood pressure readings and other

types of needs to the community. They will also provide assistance with farm stress, etc.
Comments / Discussion of Other Items Discussion held regarding the possibility of scheduling extension council meetings from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. with lunch provided. Stacy and Jennifer noted that both would be able to attend during the day.

Stacy thanked all the educators for their summaries they provided.

Next Meeting Schedule

August 4, 2022 with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting following.

Adjourn

Motion made to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. by Stacy Phillips, Second by Jennifer Parker; All in Favor – Motion Carried.

Minutes taken by Sheila K. Stamer, Office Support Associate