

Unit 24 – University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting

August 4, 2022 – 5:30 p.m. Location: Saline County Extension Office

Call to order

Unit 24 Extension Council meeting on August 4, 2022, was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Angie Messmer. The group began with a meal to recognize retiring council members and welcome new members.

Council members present

Elaine Miller, Lisa Miller, Stacy Phillips, Debbie McVey, Rachel Lands, Larry Richards, Natalie Bonnell, Jim Richey and Doug Patton.

Guests present

Kala Bonnell and Candy Patton

Staff present

Angie Messmer, Bronwyn Aly and Melissa Wilson

Approval of minutes from February 3, 2022

Motion by Lisa Miller and seconded by Elaine Miller. Motion passed.

Approval of minutes from May 17, 2022

Motion by Stacy Phillips and seconded by Natalie Bonnell. Motion passed.

Recognition and replacement of Extension Council members

Retirees: Kim Bainbridge – Hardin County, Doug Patton – Hardin County, Natalie Bonnell – Pope County, Kate Miller – Hamilton County, Lisa Miller – Hamilton County, Holly Healy – White County, Jimmy Richey – Saline County

Replacements: Jamie Byrd – Saline County, Debbie McVey – Saline County, Rachel Lands – Saline County – youth representative, Elaine Miller – Hamilton County, Zach O’Neal – White County, Larry Richards – Pope County, Dianna Robinson – Hamilton County



Election of officers

Elaine Miller will serve as chair and Stacy Phillips will serve as vice chair. The offices of secretary and financial reporter were tabled until the next meeting due to limited representation from new Extension Council membership present.

Election for Extension

Angie explained that this group would meet a few times per year to provide input and preparation around Unit budgets. Stacy Phillips, Elaine Miller, and Debbie McVey will serve as representatives. The group also recommended asking Jennifer Parker of Hamilton County if she would also be willing to serve.

Fiscal Reports – 3rd and 4th Quarters for FY22

A motion from Jim Richey with a second from Doug Patton approved the financial statement as presented. Motion passed.

In/out accounts for Saline, Hamilton, and White – check signatories

Hamilton – Angie Messmer, Melissa Wilson, Elaine Miller, Jennifer Parker

Saline - Angie Messmer, Melissa Wilson, Tony Eckert, Bronwyn Aly

White - Angie Messmer, Melissa Wilson, Bronwyn Aly, Holly Healy

A motion from Lisa Miller, with a second from Stacy Phillips approve the above signatories. Motion passed.

In/out account audits – committees to perform audits (audits will be scheduled later in the month of August)

Hamilton: Cindy Anselment, Lynn Smith, Nolene Rubenacker, and Cara Bowling (alternate), and Sheila Stamer, available as office support staff.

Saline: Alex Watkins, Ciarra Willett, Kathy Oglesby, and Lois Jones (alternate)

White: Jennifer Carter-James, Lisa Wolff, Larissa Hays, available as office support staff: Kathy Oglesby, and Sheila Stamer

A motion from Natalie Bonnell, with a second from Larry Richards approved the above audit committees. Motion passed.

Educator Updates

Bronwyn Aly - Local Food/Small Farms educator Bronwyn Aly provided an update on ANR programming efforts. She reported that the twilight meetings had gone well with a good results and good attendance. The ANR team is entering into a second year of research at DSAC on a trail studying environmental insect control and its affects. This work is funded through a grant and in partnership with an entomologist from campus. The team has also

been awarded a new specially specialty block grant. The outcomes of those research trials will be shared through a variety of webinars and workshops. There are also three summer youth workers at DSAC that are working in the high tunnels. New this growing season we are now able to sell produce out of the high tunnels. This will help generate support for the extra help positions. Community response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Melissa Wilson – 4-H Youth Development educator Melissa Wilson provided an update on 4-H summer exhibition opportunities. She reported that in total 29 different mastery events were held for 4-H youth in the months of June and July. Wilson reported the success of summer youth series that focused on healthy living and gardening. Participants enjoy learning about a variety of topics from extension staff and Master Gardeners. The 4-H team also found success partnering with local libraries this summer to focus on natural resources programming. The 4-H team will now transition to focusing on planning for fall programs. Requests are already coming in from teachers asking for programming in a variety of areas including STEM, workforce development, and character education.

Lizz Cooley-Questelle – Not able to attend. A printed report was provided to council members

John Shadowens – Not able to attend. A printed report was provided to council members

Grant update – R3 grant

Angie provided an update on the R3 grant to council members. She reported that we have been approved for funding for phase one of the grant. Phase one is a planning phase. At this time, we will be partnering with local school districts in Harrisburg to administer to survey youth to identify developmental assets. The group had great discussion of how valuable this data will be and how it could be beneficial for all school districts.

Meeting schedule for 2022-2023

The group discussed meeting dates. It was decided to meet on the first Thursday in the months of November, February, May, and August.

The following dates were approved for the 2022-2023 year.

November 3, 2022

February 2, 2023

May 4, 2023

August 3, 2023

Civil Rights discussion

Identifying and serving vulnerable and underserved populations is a cornerstone and key objective of the extension mission. Angie opened the floor for discussion asking for help from council members to assist in identifying populations that we may be missing or communities that may need additional assistance. The group discussed the population that we maybe not reaching and how we could better accommodate that population attending extension events. Melissa Wilson introduced a community mapping activity and passed out a copy to each of the council members. Each member was asked to complete the map and return it to Angie or Melissa with comments and recommendations. This valuable feedback will help us identify and prioritize communities and schools that are the most vulnerable and provide additional programming based on need.

Comments/other items for discussion

No other items of business were raised or discussed.

Adjourn

A motion from Stacy Phillips, with a second from Elaine Miller, adjourned the meeting at 7:32. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by:

Melisa Wilson, Youth Development Educator

MINUTES APPROVED: 8/3/2023

