

# Unit 24 University of Illinois Extension Council Minutes

February 16, 2023 – 6:00pm – Via Zoom

## Welcome

The Unit 24 Extension Council meeting on February 16, 2023 was called to order at 6:06pm by Chair Elaine Miller.

## Council Members Present on Zoom

Dianna Robinson, Stacey Phillips, Donna Rumsey, Lizz Cooley-Questelle, John Shadowens, Elaine Miller, Jamie Bryd, and Rachel Lands.

## Staff Present

Angie Messmer, Sheila Stamer, and Melissa Wilson.

## Extension Council Training

Extension Council Training for new members was discussed by Angie Messmer. The training class does not take very long to finish. Two packets were provided to those present providing details on what the Extension Council is and what is expected of its members. A summary packet was put together by Angie Messmer and a more detailed packet was put together by Sheila Stamer.

## Approval of Minutes from August 4, 2022, November 3, 2022

Unfortunately, there was not a quorum, so the August and November Minutes were not approved, but were instead reviewed by those present.

## Fiscal Reports – Trust 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters for FY23

The fiscal reports could not be approved because there was not a quorum.

## Updates from the County Director

- The White County Office Support Assistant, Lindsay McGuire, was hired/started on November 28, 2022. She is a great asset.
- There was no report on DSAC.
- The Whitetail event on October 1-2, 2022, went very well. Melissa Wilson organized this event, and the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center hosted it. Youth hunter



certification courses were implemented into 4-H curriculum. Those in attendance learned this curriculum hands-on and absorbed more knowledge than they would have by simply watching a demonstration behind a table. This event will hopefully be held next year.

- The HEAT Project report is included in John Shadowens and Lizz Cooley-Questelle's Educator Update/Report.

## Completion of Election of Officers/Extension Boards

Those members who are willing to fulfill the positions still could not be voted upon due to the lacking quorum.

## Updates from Educators

- **Bronwyn Aly:** Unable to Attend.
- **Lizz Cooley-Questelle:** New community workers are doing programming in elementary schools with the *Organ Wise Guys* as well as adult programming with Eat. Move. Save. There is a series of healthy recipe gathering made into Unit Videos constructed with Units 24, 26, and 27. SNAP Ed Educators, Toni Kay Wright and Lizz Cooley-Questelle, are working with Southern Illinois Healthcare and Region V Hospital Coordinating Center to expand their Wellness on Wheels Program to include a mobile teaching kitchen ("Kitchen A La Carte") to take to different community events or schools. The 4C's built a new building for food distribution, which is up and going with the assistance of Lizz Cooley-Questelle and Lacy Barnhill and other Unit 24 SNAP Ed PSE team members. Around 70 individuals in New Haven have event food access thanks to the HEAT project and the Tri-State Food Bank. SNAP is also working with a 4-H Food Advocacy Grant and the two youth recipients in Pope County and a church on a share table and backpack program. SNAP is gearing up for garden season and trying to get a donation garden at the Golden Circle in Ridgway. Also, the White County G.I.F.T. garden will be funded for the 2023 season and has partnered with SNAP working with the Growing Together Illinois grant. The Extension SNAP Ed team was awarded funding from the Illinois Public Health Association to assist in community outreach for their Illinois vaccination efforts.
- **John Shadowens:** The HEAT project addresses food insecurity in food deserts in Cairo and Gallatin County. In Gallatin County, they are looking to increase food distribution by partnering with the Salvation Army and other organizations. They are partnered with the Tri-State Food Bank to operate the mobile food pantry, which will likely be fully operational by this fall. They will pilot it in several communities including Gallatin County. They are also partnered with Illinois State Senator Dale Fowler in the Illinois Grocery Initiative to create and sustain grocery stores in food deserts. There was a Grocer Summit in Vienna with small stores, over ¾ of which

were unsure if they would still be in business 3 years from now. They will work with Senator Fowler on the project and get local growers and grocers connected.

- **Melissa Wilson:** Stewardship Week, which is a conservation education program, will be April 19-21 at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center. Children learn more about being good stewards of the land and stations will introduce them to related jobs. This event will be in person for the first time since 2019. A full day is also being added specifically for children with special needs. Those present were encouraged to tell/invite schools and/or families who have children with special needs about this program. Also, there will be a Skills to Pay the Bills program in Gallatin County. It will incorporate a mock interview and resume critiquing. There will also be STEM and technology classes with 3D printing programs where those in attendance will be tasked with making a health product.

## **Civil Rights Discussion & Upcoming Review**

This topic was not discussed due to the lacking attendance.

## **Council Replacements**

Three council members are to be replaced beginning September 1. These include Tony Eckert of Pope County, Hank Oldham of Gallatin County, and Donna Rumsey of Saline County. Justin Roberts agreed to replace Donna Rumsey. Replacements are due to the regional director by June 15. The council is looking for replacements who will be able to attend the meetings. More council input is desired with hopes of being more productive instead of members simply being talked at.

## **Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Unit 24 Extension Council will be on May 4, 2023, at 6pm.

## **Comments & Discussion**

Those present agreed that having the next meeting over Zoom would be the easiest option. Those present were asked to discuss interesting things that were happening in their communities. Jamie Byrd said that funding was coming from a Walmart Grant for a community garden. Elaine Miller commented about local food banks, 4-H drop boxes, sack lunch programs, and marketing for the PR Director in McLeansboro.

## **Adjourn**

This meeting of the Unit 24 Extension Council was adjourned with hopes that more members would be able to join the next meeting.

Minutes take and submitted by Rachel Lands.

Minutes Approved: 8/3/2023