

**University of Illinois Extension
Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit
Extension Council Meeting
Monday February 3, 2025
Tazewell Extension Office
Pekin, IL**

Minutes

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Kim Dunnigan at 12:00 PM.
- Attendees: Earl Allen, Tara Heath, Anita Wilkinson, Emma Green, Kim Dunnigan, Emily Rogier, Cindy Intravartolo, Sue Beeney, Janine Donahue, Dinah VanDelinder, Melissa Gilson, Hector Corona and Patty Wiegers. Quorum requirement was satisfied. All members introduced themselves.
- Approval of minutes: All council members reviewed the October 7th meeting minutes. Melissa's last name needs to be corrected in the minutes. With these corrections the minutes were approved by consensus.

Communications and Programming Updates

- Tara Heath, Commercial Ag Crops Educator, introduced herself and discussed her personal and educational background related to her current role. She discussed her plans to educate the farming community about ways to increase productivity while still being profitable and being aware of the environmental impact of farming practices. She discussed the importance of strategies such as no till, cover crops and nutrient management to reduce the leaching and run off that has led to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Anita Wilkinson, Communications for Extension, handed out a draft copy of the annual review for all members to review and provide input. Fifteen hundred copies will be printed and distributed to increase awareness of Extension's programs and impacts in the community. Emma discussed the impact of the 4-H Youth Development, programs, Tara discussed the increased involvement of Extension at the annual Farm Show at the Peoria Civic Center, Earl discussed the "Partner Spotlights" pages and Janine discussed the Morton Public Library tree walk.

Administrative Updates

Earl discussed the progress of filling the three Extension Program Coordinator positions that have been open since last fall. Candidates have been selected and HR at U of I is completing the process before these individuals can be offered the positions. Earl will still be seeking to fill the community worker position for the SNAP-Ed program. Two additional staff (Rachel Van Cleve-Fulton County 4H Coordinator and Emily Schoenfelder- 4- H Youth Development Educator) have announced their upcoming departures from Extension and Earl will work to fill the positions once vacant.

Extension Council Member Updates and Input

- Kim discussed that the Fulton-Mason Master Gardeners were meeting today to discuss new programming ideas.
- Tara discussed the upcoming Annie's Project 101 event on February 27-28, 2025 which will be held at the U of I Extension office in Pekin. This is a national program that will be held as a 2-day intensive program for women in agriculture.
- Emma discussed the Women in Agriculture conference that will be held in Rock Island on March 28, 2025. Tara plans to attend to represent U of I Extension.
- Janine discussed the current planning for an 8 session 4-H Junior Master Gardener program as a SPIN class. Leaders will be Janine, Trudy Yazujian and Ellen Denler. Tentative plans are for some sessions to be held at the WIC Garden at the Tazewell County Health Department.

Other Business

No other additional business was needed to be discussed.

Next Meeting will be on Monday, April 7, 2025 from 12:00-1:00 PM at the Pekin U of I Extension office. This meeting will be the Annual Budget Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned by Kim Dunnigan at 12:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Janine Donahue Secretary, 2/3/2025