



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**University of Illinois Extension
Sangamon, Menard, and Logan Counties
Extension Council & Board Meeting Agenda
January 16, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.
Boar's Nest – Athens, IL**

- **Call to Order** – Chairman Mendenhall called the meeting to order at 6:51 pm.
- **Council Members & Staff Present:** Ellie Wrage, David Mendenhall, Kindell Helton, Zack Dixon, Jaylyn Wheat, Steve Holiday, Charlotte Judd, Carl Baker, Terri Casey
- **Previous Meeting Minutes**
MOTION: Motion to accept the October meetings minutes was made by Steve Holiday and seconded by Zach Dixon. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Introductions of Members and Guest**
All present took a moment to introduce themselves and their connection to the community and Extension.
- **Financial/Fiscal Updates**
The group was joined by Carl Baker, Assistant Director, Government Relations who discussed state legislative funding for Extension, how it compares to neighboring states, and efforts to increase it.
- **Program Updates**
Casey handed out staff program reports and pointed out how 4-H in the unit had greatly increased its in-school programming in all three counties.

Casey and David Mendenhall also gave an update on a partnership to help Sangamon County with their Farm to Fork local food system initiative.

- **Staffing Update**
Casey gave a staffing update. The Sangamon County 4-H Program Coordinator position has been filled and Maddie Atterberry started on January 7. She resides with her husband in the Petersburg area.

Casey shared that they are currently searching for a Local Food Systems Program Coordinator. With additional financial support from Sangamon County, they will be able to fund this position. The coordinator will work throughout the unit and area to strengthen food systems by connecting producers with buyers, particularly institutions. They will also identify barriers and help connect resources, groups, and individuals to build a more sustainable system.

- **Reaching New Audiences/Meeting Community Need**
Casey mentioned that there is currently an additional open seat on the council, and she is seeking new voices to join our Extension Council, especially those who understand the needs of a variety of audiences, as well as helping to serve those most at risk and in need of our services. She asked the

council that if they know of someone who could represent these audiences and whose experience would be helpful, please reach out to her and she will reach out to them.

- **Set Future Meeting Dates**

The following dates were set for this year's upcoming council meetings:

We may need to reset the Thursday, June 19, 2024 – 7 PM meeting scheduled for Lincoln, due to it being a holiday.

The Third Thursday of January, March, June, and October.

Thursday, March 20, 2024 – 7 PM (Springfield)

Thursday, June 19, 2024 – 7 PM (Lincoln)

Thursday, October 16, 2024 – 7 PM (Springfield)

- **Public Input**

There was no public input.

- **Adjournment**

MOTION made by Steve Holiday seconded by Zach Dixon. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.