



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**University of Illinois Extension
Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington Counties
Unit 23**

Multi-County Council Minutes

January 15, 2025; 11:30 am

@ Washington County Extension Conference Center

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Jordee Koehler at 11:35 a.m.

Election of Officers:

Jordee opened the meeting to elect officers due to having a quorum in attendance.

A motion was made by Wes Gozia with a second by Matt Hornbostel to appoint Julie Brooks as secretary. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dee DeMoss with a second by Wes Gozia to appoint Mike Bruns as vice-chair and Elaine McNamara as chair. Motion carried.

Roll Call:

Council members present answering to roll call included: Julie Brooks, Mike Bruns, Dee DeMoss, Wes Gozia, Matt Hornbostel, Julie Karmeier, Diane Koertge, Elaine McNamara, Julia Miessner, Bernard Myers, Jamie Storey and Nick Suess. Staff in attendance were Jordee Koehler, Lauren Sharp, Chris Lueking, Kara Boozer, Jamie Mahlandt, and Rhonda Mueller. Guest in attendance was Destiny Fisher.

Approval of Minutes

Wes Gozia made a motion with a second by Butch Meyers to approve the April 17, 2024, August 21, 2024 and October 16, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

Extension Updates:

Council members with terms circling off at the conclusion of this term will be Julie Brooks, Elaine McNamara, Dee DeMoss, Natalie Shook, and Herb Williams.

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Council members who's first term is ending this year are Julie Karmeier, Jeff Pingsterhaus, Jamie Storey, Terry Wilkerson, Julie Wollerman, Nick Seuss, Butch Myers, and Matt Hornbostel. Jordée is hoping these individuals stay on for another term.

Discussion was held regarding when and where to have future meetings due to the problem of getting a quorum present in recent months. Jordée proposed rotating counties on the 1st Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. The schedule that was come up with is:

September 3	Clinton County
November 5	Bond County
February 4	Marion County
April 1	Jefferson County
June 3	Washington County

It was also discussed if utilizing the proxy method would be acceptable to assist in getting a quorum. It was decided not to go this route.

Funding Update: (For FY26)

Bond – Held constant
Clinton County – 15% cut
Jefferson – 4% increase
Marion – 2% increase
Washington – 1% increase

Jordée discussed the three tiers of funding

County
State
Federal

It was suggested to offer additional services to counties where there might be issues on future funding.

Position Openings

FCS – Program Coordinator
ANR – Program Coordinator – Kaylen Fuhler started on January 8
SNAP Community Outreach Worker

There is also an opportunity for partial funding with the unit funding the remainder of a Community & Economic Development Educator that would focus on County Board support, disaster relief, and assist with grant search/applications, etc.

Educator Updates

4-H/Youth (Lauren Sharp)

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Updates:

- Clinton County – Animal Clinic and hosting Show of Champs
- Regional Showcase – lower 49 counties exhibit at DuQuoin State Fair (hosted by Unit 23)
- Jr. Master Gardeners (in Marion County at the Community Garden)
- Jefferson/Marion County Dog Spin Club (Dog Obedience and Agility)

FCS (Jamie Mahlandt)

- Lessons for Living Series (bi-monthly)
- Kaskaskia Special Education System will be hosting a Welcome to the Real World Simulation for students with IEP's

SNAP- ED (Kara Boozer)

- Looking at reaching over 1,000 students in Marion County (direct education)
- Looking at reaching over 1,100 students in Jefferson County (direct education)

Kara is working on Professional Development Opportunities (PDOs) for cafeteria workers on wellness policies to satisfy the Illinois State Board of Education requirements.

A new program that was held this year was the Deer Donation program. They ended attaining the goal of 20 deer. They worked with Fred's Meat and Processing out of Ashley, IL. The program pays the processing and the meat is ground and put into 1 lb packages. The deer is then disbursed at the local food pantries. Kara is working on grants and donations to cover the costs. They are planning on doing it again this year with a goal of 40 deer.

The SNAP-ED team is gearing up for Illinois Jr. Chef Cooking schools with the planning for the schools beginning next month.

ANR (Chris Lueking)

- February hosting Certified Livestock Training at the Clinton County Office on February 5
- Illinois Fruit & Vegetable School in February – Regional School in Mt. Vernon
- Annie's Project – 6 week course in Washington County
- PSA materials for school – print and go lessons

Old Business

- None.

New Business:

Open Meeting Act Training – council members should send their completion certificate to Jordee.

Motion by Wes Gozia and a second by Butch Meyers to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.