

University of Illinois Extension Council Minutes

Unit 24 - October 27, 2023 – 4:00 pm – Saline County Extension office

Welcome

The Unit 24 Extension Council meeting on October 27, 2023, called to order at 4:05pm. All present introduced and told a little about themselves to the other council members.

Council Members Present

Amanda Courson, Connie Gibbs, Debbie McVey, Stacy Phillips, Justin Roberts, Mallory Thompson, Alex Watkins, Dean West, and Rachel Lands.

Staff Members Present

Angie Messmer, and Sheila Stamer

Approval of minutes from August 3, 2023

The minutes from the August 3, 2023, meeting was reviewed by those present. A motion to approve the minutes as read made by Alex Watkins and seconded by Stacy Phillips. The motion carried.

Fiscal Reports – Trust 1st Quarter for FY24

The Fiscal Report was provided to those present consisting of the Banking Summary – Q3 2023 and FY24 – September 2023 pages. Sheila Stamer stated that our budget is in good shape at the end of the first quarter and the ending balance is much higher than in the past. A motion to approve the Fiscal Reports was made by Stacy Phillips and seconded by Mallory Thompson. The motion carried.

Updates from the County Director

- New Hire for DSAC – Ashlea Grumley, Office Support Assistant: Ashlea Grumley has been on the DSAC staff for a little over a month. She is a Pope County native and helps Sheila at the Office.
- Resignation of Kendra Cook – Pope-Hardin 4-H EPC: There will be interviews conducted on November 6, 2023, for the new Pope-Hardin 4-H EPC. There are two applicants, one internal and one external, and both have good qualifications.



Election of County Governing Board

The County Governing Board will represent the Unit 24 Extension Council at County Board meetings in various counties if the need arises. Three board members are needed. Mallory Thompson, Alex Watkins, and Amanda Courson volunteered to be on the County Governing Board.

Motion to approve the removal of Dean West as signatory for Saline County In/Out Account and substitute with Debbie McVey

A motion to remove Dean West as signatory for the Saline County In/Out Account and substitute with Debbie McVey was made by Connie Gibbs and seconded by Stacey Phillips.

Updates from Educators

Due to the absence of the following educators, Angie Messmer shared some highlights from their reports provided

- Bronwyn Aly and Julie Zakes: The highlights of their report include the following. In 2023, they harvested over 16,000 lbs. of produce from fruits and vegetables grown in their demonstration and research plots. This year they were able to produce 5x more produce than last year. Over 5500 lbs. were donated within the bottom 11 counties and the remaining was sold directly to consumers on site. This generated \$7713.00 in sales.
- Lindsay Adams: The highlights from her report include the following. The new 4-H year started September 1. There will be a Fossil Hunt open to all Unit 24 4-Hers. 4-Hers in Gallatin County helped with the Farm to Table event. There are also two new 4-H Spin Clubs in Gallatin County. Hamilton County 4-Hers had their International Night and will host a “Haunted Trail” event. Pope County 4-Hers have been helping prepare for Trunk or Treat at DSAC. Saline County 4-Hers have been preparing for Achievement Night and recorded PSA’s at WEBQ radio station for National 4-H Week. There is also a new club in Carrier Mills. Saline and Hamilton counties are also in need of a Shooting Sports Leader. White County 4-Hers presented Flag etiquette signs at fall community events and recorded PSA’s and met with mayors to promote National 4-H Week. Unit Wide Updates include the Digital Literacy Program, Drones and Robotics, Eclipse Preparation, and the “Welcome to the Real Word” program that is being brought to NCOE School, Hardin County High School, and Gallatin County High School.
- John Shadowens: The client-choice “Food on the Move” Mobile Food Pantry Pilot Project officially launched on October 18, 2023. The first distribution was in New Haven where 37 households were served. Most of the people who came were from the New Haven area. The next distribution location will be at Ullin on November 8,

2023. The truck will stop at New Haven on the third Wednesday of every month and at Ullin every second Wednesday. They are also looking for other permanent stops to make. The Mobile Food Pantry is open to anyone and is equipped with enough food to feed approximately 60 families. There are plans in the future to provide accommodations to those who have transportation issues. This is a joint project with Tri-State Food Bank and Extension.

- Lizz Cooley-Questelle: In mid-August Nanci Berger wrapped up the classes of Create Better Health at Arrowleaf's Developmental Services Program in Golconda. We Love White County is a non-profit who organizes food distributions, a free sack lunch program, a Summer and afterschool program as well as other programs. The SNAP Ed staff used the sack lunch giveaway as another avenue for produce donation from the DSAC garden. At one giveaway the SNAP Ed staff conducted an EMS booth. At another they scheduled the new mobile teaching kitchen to be onsite. The HEAT team attended the Epsilon Sigma Phi National Conference in Billings, MT in September to present their work with the Southern Illinois Food Access project and to gain valuable professional development. The first FOTM pantry stop was at New Haven on October 18, 2023, where more than 1300 lbs. of food were distributed. This spring, Terra Russell began visiting the White County Senior Citizen's Center to present 'Create Better Health,' SNAP Eds newest adult curriculum where the concept is to help people create healthy meals on budget by using foods they have on-hand

Civil Rights Discussion

Angie Messmer asked those present if they had any thoughts/ideas of where underserved areas are and how to fix this issue. Justin Roberts said that they are voting Sunday to open a drug rehab facility in Eldorado as well as build three new homes to help with that program. He also stated that more awareness about homelessness is needed as well as educational outreach that could possibly be done at Egyptian Health. Alex Watkins spoke on the social determinants of health and that there are already programs functioning well but that still need engagement. Debbie McVey asked why people allow kids to quit school. Alex Watkins replied that some school districts are stricter with truancy than others. Some schools are implementing tutoring and other programs to try to inspire kids to become more engaged in school, but it all comes back to that lack of engagement because one cannot force kids to participate in the tutoring. Angie Messmer said that maybe we should try to think in the shoes of the unengaged/disengaged to try to figure out how to engage them. Dean West said that someone could talk to the truancy officers in schools to see which kids are in need or are at risk. Angie Messmer and Justin Roberts said that they are going to meet with

other community members to discuss things that can be done to help kids in the community and needs that can be met using the funds from the R3 Grant.

Schedule Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting of the Unit 24 Extension Council will be on February 8, 2024, at 6pm at the Saline County Extension Office.

Comments and Discussion

Dean West will check to see if Richard Knoll would like to replace Connie Brocket on the Extension Council. Angie Messmer said that the Council needs more representatives from Pope and Hardin Counties.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn this meeting made by Rachel Lands and seconded by Alex Watkins. The meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm.

Minutes taken and submitted by Rachel Lands.

Approved – 2/15/2024