

University of Illinois Extension Council Minutes

Unit 24 – September 18, 2024 – 5:30 pm – Saline
County Extension office

Welcome

The Unit 24 Extension Council meeting on September 18, 2024, was called to order by Angie Messmer. Our annual dinner was held prior to the meeting's call to order. All those present introduced themselves.

Council Members Present

Joe Zieren, Hannah Haney, Alex Watkins, Amanda Courson, Jamie Byrd, Elaine Miller, Connie Gibbs, Debbie McVey, Audera Willis, and Rachel Lands over Zoom.

Staff Members Present

Angie Messmer, Lindsay Adams, Bronwyn Aly, and Sheila Stamer.

Extension Council Training

All Extension Council members are required to complete the Open Meetings Act Training. A packet about this was passed out during the meeting. Members are to complete the training on their own and report back their completion. It was stated that if members don't have computer access or good internet then they are welcome to come into one of the Extension Offices in the unit and complete it there.

Approval of minutes from May 16, 2024

The minutes from the May 16, 2024, meeting was reviewed by those present. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Alex Watkins and seconded by Jamie Byrd. The motion carried.

Fiscal Reports – Trust 4th Quarter for FY24

The Fiscal Report was provided to those present consisting of the Banking Summary – Q2 2024 and FY24 – June 2024 Reconciliation Summary. Sheila Stamer stated that these showed where we were ending the 4th Quarter at the end of June (end of the fiscal year).



She said that we are still in pretty good shape. She clarified that the trophies, medals, and plaques line item of expense was for all 6 counties. We expect this line item to increase as costs of trophies, medals and other tokens have risen in price. Sheila would like to retract that the other income line item is the academic salaries that is transferred to the Trust account. Previously stated it was for other sales, as the account code listed on the banking summary. A motion to approve the Fiscal Report was made by Alex Watkins and seconded by Elaine Miller. The motion carried.

Updates from the County Director

- Angie Messmer said that it was a very productive and busy summer with 4-H and SNAP and that the summer help assisted with many of the programs. The focus has now shifted to programing in the schools.
- There is a solar company in Saline County called Sol Systems. They have offered a proposal and stated that this will provide additional income for the county. The solar company Vespar is out of White County, but it focuses on all the counties.
- The funding for Extension is on the ballot in November for the tax leavy. Extension will continue to do programing in Gallatin County until the results from the voting are released. The funding for Extension in Gallatin County ended on June 30, 2024. If Extension is voted out of Gallatin County, then all programing will cease there. Angie reiterated that Extension has done nothing wrong. There is just one elected board member that is making an example of getting rid of programing that he feels is unnecessary. One Extension Council member asked when his term would be up, and Angie replied in 2 years. Angie also clarified how the tax leavy works with Extension funding. If the county funding for Extension ceases, so does the state funding and everything else. Another Extension Council member asked what had been done to educate the public about this and Angie told them all that had been done and what they are planning to do. She said that they are not going to go out and bad mouth him or campaign, they are looking at it from an educational standpoint and are trying to be visible in the community. Another Extension Council member said that the mail in ballots will be distributed on September 26, 2024, and provided details on how the mail in ballots work.
- October will be the 1-year anniversary of the Food on the Move program in New Haven which serves about 70 people each month.

Updates from Educators

- Bronwyn had prepared a packet for the meeting. The Twilight Series was MayAugust with one meeting per month. The farmers highlighted were very knowledgeable in their areas. The series was a success, but the numbers were a little down. Bronwyn

thinks this was because some of the meetings were in counties farther north than normal. There was also a High Tunnel Workshop at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center in July. The grant for insect research will be completed at the end of September. The Pope-Hardin EPC took part in the Gardening program at the Ag Center led by Jennifer Warren. They had high numbers of participation, and they had to cap their numbers off at 25. Some of the produce gathered from the kid's high tunnel was donated back to the Blessing Box. They haven't added up the total weight of the produce harvested yet because the tunnel is still producing. Bronwyn attended a Back to School Bash at Southeastern Illinois College with SNAP-Ed. Bronwyn, Kassey Scates, and Lindsay Adams had a booth at Popcorn Days. On September 15, 2024, the Ag Center was a site for the annual Farm Crawl and there were about 61 people who participated. On September 21, 2024, Bronwyn will have a booth at the Shrimp Festival. The Master Gardeners will have a booth/table set up at the Bluegrass Festival. Bronwyn mentioned that SIC had brought back their Agriculture program this year. She will host a Beginning Farmers Training 12-week program. She said that SNAP-Ed is trying to reach adults at SIC as well. Angie said that there are lots of students out there with nutritional needs and need more nutrition education.

- Lizz Cooley-Questelle: Lizz had a report on SNAP-Ed. She said that the Healthy Lifestyles Action Team is supporting another community walking challenge in October. SNAP had a flavor station at Eldorado High School where staff were able to receive professional development with ABCs of School Nutrition training. Post training, nutrition staff at the school implemented a flavor station in their lunchroom. There was a School Lunch Rocks Workshop on August 2, 2024, at John A Logan College. School nutrition staff were able to earn 4 hours of USDA Professional Standards for attending. This workshop was part of a series, with the next workshop being held on October 11, 2024, at John A. Logan college. Illinois Junior Chef is a cooking school geared toward youth 8-13 years old with no prior experience required. It is comprised of 5 lessons about kitchen safety, cooking skills, and nutrition. Nanci Berger taught this curriculum to 72 youth, at 7 locations in 5 counties. This past June SNAP-Ed in partnership with Carmi's – We Love White Counties youth program ARROWS by teaching the Teen Cuisine Cooking Camp curriculum to youth grades 6-12 over the course of 3 days. Youth learned about various topics in cooking and nutrition while also participating in a physical activity portion before and after each lesson. There was a new addition to the SNAP-Ed

team. Kristina Aldrich was hired as the new community Outreach Worker for White County.

- Lindsay provided a handout with county updates and highlights. The new 4-H year has started. The counties wrapped up gardening and cooking classes and the county shows. Several 4-H'ers from our unit showed their projects at the Du Quoin State Fair. SIC loaned 4-H a virtual welder that will be used in 4th grade classrooms in Gallatin County with FFA students helping with the program. Lindsay went to Ridgway Park and had a program that showed youth different birds and insects and how to identify them. 4-H'ers will be helping serve and clean up at the Farm to table event in Gallatin County scheduled for September 27, 2024. There is a new club in Hardin County for kids PreK-3rd grade. There is a new robotics club in Hardin County during their study hall. There is interest in the Teen Teachers program in Pope County. 4-H had a table set up at the Pope and Hardin County Back to School Bashes. There will be a Trunk or Treat at the Ag Center on October 25, 2024, where Pope-Hardin 4-H'ers will be selling chili and help decorate for the event. The Saline County EPC (Extension Program Coordinator) said that she plans to do more programming in Galatia in addition to having a table at their Back to School Bash. Saline County 4-H has decided to order coffee sleeves that will be distributed by local coffee shops around the time of National 4-H week. The Saline County 4-H Fall Party will be held on November 2, 2024. The Teen Teachers program is starting up in White County. Their Farm to Table event is planned for October 10, 2024. A 4-H parent in White County has expressed interest in leading a Dog Agility program for the county. Lindsay said that the Unit 24 4-H was awarded a grant and was able to purchase 5 sewing machines. As of thus far, 48 blankets for the Veterans Honor Flight for May 6 have been completed.

Election of Officers

The election of officers was conducted. Jamie Byrd nominated Amanda Courson for Chair and that was seconded by Debbie McVey. Amanda Courson made a motion to keep Norman Hill as Vice Chair and that was seconded by Elaine Miller. Audera Willis made a motion to keep Rachel Lands as Secretary and that was seconded by Amanda Courson. Jamie Byrd made a motion to keep Justin Roberts as Financial Reporter and that was seconded by Audera Willis. All these motions were carried.

Election for Extension Board Roster and County Governing Board Roster

This was tabled until the next meeting.

Civil Rights Discussion

This was to inform all members that Extension must record demographic information from program attendees and follow rules from the university for publications. We have a Civil Rights Review every year in October and every 3 years from the state.

New Members

Our new members were Hannah Haney – Saline County, Audera Willis – Hamilton County, and Joe Zieren – White County. Those members leaving are Alex Watkins, Stacey Phillips, and Jennifer Willis. The Extension staff had prepared parting gifts for them.

In/Out Account Audit Committees

Sheila explained that the in/out accounts are very small and not used too much throughout the year. This account does, however disburse the 4-H premium checks . Those on the audit committees in Hamilton, Saline, and White Counties are as follows:

- Hamilton: Cindy Anselment, Lynn Smith, Nolene Rubenacker, and Sheila Stamer
- Saline: Alex Watkins, Dean West, Justin Roberts, and Kathy Oglesby
- White County: Jennifer Carter-James, Lisa Wolff, Larissa Hays, Kathy Oglesby, and Sheila Stamer

In/Out Accounts for Saline/Hamilton/White – Check Signatories

The check signatories for Saline, Hamilton, and White counties are as follows:

- Saline County: Angie Messmer, Bronwyn Aly, Elizabeth Cooley-Questelle, and Deborah McVey
- Hamilton County: Angie Messmer, Lindsay Adams, Elaine Miller, and Audera Willis
- White County: Angie Messmer, Bronwyn Aly, Holly Healy, and Elizabeth Cooley-Questelle

Future Meetings for 2024-2025

We traditionally have our meetings on Thursday nights around 5- 6pm quarterly. Most everyone agreed that Thursdays at 6pm would work for them. The next meeting of the Unit 24 Extension Council will be held on January 9, 2025, at 6pm at the Saline County Extension Office.

Comments and Discussion

Angie Messmer opened the floor up for discussion about various organizations that the members were part of. Jamie discussed the Egyptian Health Department. He said that they had to do lots of inspections because of the fairs, that there was a community walking challenge, discussed the community health coalition consisting of 3 counties, said that there will be Narcan trainings and discussed test strips for fentanyl and another tranquilizer

drug, and discussed the integrated care for adults and kids programs. Amanda said that there will be a Boo Bash in Norris City with booths on October 26, 2024 from 10-2pm outdoors on West 2nd St. between Mimmo's Pizza and the car wash and said that Extension is welcome to set up a booth. Another council member said that Extension is welcome to have a booth/table at the Bluegrass festival as well.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn this meeting was made by Debbie McVey and seconded by Elaine Miller. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm.

Minutes taken and submitted by Rachel Lands.

Approved – 3/6/2025