



Extension Council Meeting Minutes

Time and Place

A meeting of the Extension Council Board was held on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at Sarah Bush Lincoln's Lumpkin Education Center in Mattoon, IL.

Members Present at Meeting

Jessie Streit, Bristole Zimmerman, Tom Webb, Elizabeth Mitsdarffer, Scott Seegmiller, Travis Phelps, Erik Stollard, Christine Matlock (virtual), Gary Gergeni, Kelly Barringer, and Tim Morse

Call to Order: Tom Webb (chair) called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and a quorum of the Board was present.

Members all went around and introduced themselves.

Approval of June 6, 2025, Minutes: The June 6, 2024, minutes are accepted as true and correct

Moved: Scott Seegmiller

Seconded: Tim Morse

Motion carried

Program Spotlight

- Jessie shared information about the Master Gardener Program:
 - CiLiving video clip: <https://www.wcia.com/ciliving-tv/ciliving-stories/ciliving/spend-a-botanical-evening-in-the-garden/>
 - Coles County was the first Master Gardener program in "rural" Illinois.
 - This year, the program is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Master Gardener Program
 - 32 Master Gardeners in our program (based on 2024 annual report)
 - The program holds fundraisers (annual plant sale, Spring into Gardening), charges program fees when applicable and applies for grants to help offset the cost of the program.
 - September 11th, 2025 - A Botanical Evening in the Garden
 - 5:30-7 p.m.
 - Idea Garde, Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital, Mattoon, IL
 - September 27th, 2025 - Tree Fest
 - 9 a.m.
 - Douglas - Hart Nature Center
 - November 25th, 2025 - Fresh Floral Centerpiece Workshop
 - 6 p.m.
 - SBLH Education Center, Mattoon, IL



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Old Business

- Board membership
 - Discussed reducing our max membership number on the council to nine people, versus the current minimum of 15. New guidelines are being finalized by Illinois Extension Leadership.
 - Discussed how many people from each county (for equal representation) should be the mandate.
 - Board members encouraged Jessie Streit to reach out to Board Chairs and educate them on the importance of their appointees to attend Council meetings. Use it as an opportunity to educate.

New Business

- SNAP-Ed Program
 - USDA gave approval to use funding through 2/14/26; funding/programming was initially supposed to end in October 2025.
 - SNAP-Ed is not LINK cards. SNAP-Ed provides nutrition education, food access and safety training, etc., SNAP-Ed has nothing to do with the administration of SNAP benefits.
 - Most popular in the unit has been the Partners in Produce and Hunters Feeding Illinois programs. Additionally, school and community programming such as IL Junior Chef and Health Cents.
 - The board expressed that they hoped programs like those above would continue in some way moving forward.
 - Tom Webb asked what money the five-county area needs to keep our counties afloat within these programs.
 - The current SNAP-Ed budget is approximately \$480K, but does not include funds to purchase food for Partners in Produce and benefits.
 - Spending restrictions are occurring throughout the SNAP-Ed program
- Program Data
 - Jessie Streit provided a report of all programming from October 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025.
 - Discussed 4-H membership numbers
 - Shelby County is tied for 4th place with Champaign County.
- Open Positions
 - Coles County 4-H Program Coordinator
 - Temp Office Support staff member in the Arthur office
 - Partnering with a neighboring unit (Edgar, Clark, and Edgar counties) to hire a Nutrition and Wellness Educator.
- Fiscal
 - Approval of bank signatory card updates:
 - State Bank of Arthur
 - Remove Morgan Jones



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- Update Jessie McClusky's last name to Streit
- Add Krista Houk
- Shelby State Bank
 - Remove Kim Morrison
 - Update Jessie McClusky's last name to Streit
 - Add Krista Houk

Moved: Kelly Barringer

Seconded: Gary Gergen

Motion carried

- Dates of Interests
 - Jessie Streit provided dates of upcoming programs and events.
- Annual Report
 - Jessie Streit provided copies of the 2024 annual report and requested feedback from members on what they liked and would like to see added or increased in the 2025 annual report. Some feedback included:
 - More pictures
 - More quick facts
 - Love the idea of county-specific highlights
 - Attention spans are short; keep the publication short and easy to read

Executive Session: NONE

Public Comments: NONE

Adjourn: Tom Webb adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 4, 2025