

University of Illinois Unit 25 Extension Council Meeting

Serving Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, and Wayne counties

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Edwards County Farm Bureau Meeting Room

15 S. 5th Street

Albion, IL 62806

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Piller, Lily Simpson, Julie Clodfelter, Matthew St. Ledger, Jim Brewer, Karissa Anderson, Andrea Puckett

Members Absent: Haleigh Buchanan, Megan Daughtery, Doug Raber, Kim Fisher, Seth Clodfelter, Tonya Potts, Paul Bruinsma, Justine Basnett

Staff Members Present: Tara Buerster, Samantha Gaither, Alizah Harper

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the March 12, 2025 meeting were reviewed by the council. Matt St. Ledger made a motion to accept the minutes as reviewed, Michelle Piller seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tara Buerster presented the Unit 25 Financial Report, reviewing donations, grants, and expenses with council members.

OLD BUSINESS

Tara Buerster reviewed with the Council the new meeting room space the Extension Office was able to obtain from the landlord and the additional space this provides to the Extension office. The landlord is installing a door to the new area from the current office. An Open House is being planned for the fall when the work is complete and new staff have been hired to fill vacancies in Wabash County.

Tara Buerster reviewed the Council Vacancies and stated she was working on filling upcoming vacancies. Members whose second terms have expired and must sit out: Doug Raber, Jim Brewer, Haleigh Buchanan, Tonya Potts, Paul Bruinsma, and Justine Basnett. Tara thanked

them for their contribution to Illinois Extension. Meghan Daughtery has left Farm Bureau and so the new manager will be asked to replace Meghan. Tara also passed out Illinois Extension stainless cups to all Council members as a thank you.

Tara and Educators reviewed that work continues on the Needs Assessment and a community survey will be going out this summer.

NEW BUSINESS

Hunters Feeding Illinois – Alizah Harper shared information on the Hunters Feeding Illinois program and that the unit would have the program for the first year, this year.

FY26 Budget – Tara shared that the FY26 budget has been developed. Two counties increased their funding for the Unit, of which the staff are very thankful for. The budget will be submitted before the end of May.

ENGAGING DIVERSE AUDIENCES

Council members reviewed how to reach more diverse audiences during the discussions of the Unit Needs Assessment.

STAFF REPORTS

Tara, Alizah and Sam shared verbal reports on activities that have occurred since the last meeting along with current staff vacancies. Katie Bell was out due to a meeting out of state and submitted a written report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next Unit 25 Extension Council Meeting will be October 22, 2025 at the Edwards County Farm Bureau Basement meeting room.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.