

# University of Illinois Unit 25 Extension Council Meeting

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

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Edwards County Extension Meeting Room

7 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Albion, IL 62806

6:00 p.m.

## **MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Abby Shelton, Matt St. Ledger, Jerrie Roark, Molly Seals, Julie Clodfelter, Levi Clodfelter, Karissa Anderson Ethan Keyser, Lilly Simpson-via Zoom, Andrea Puckett-via Zoom

**Members Absent:** Michelle Pillar, Kimberly Fisher, Audra Spray, Tammy Ochs

**Staff Members Present:** Tara Buerster, Samantha Gaither, Katie Bell

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Tara Buerster called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

## **Welcome and Introductions**

### **Council Orientation**

Tara Buerster presented an orientation slideshow to the council reviewing the history, inner workings and changes to Illinois Extension with the new Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan handout was also given to the Council members.

### **Officer Nominations and Elections**

**Council Chair:** Matt St. Ledger was nominated to serve as Council Chair by Karissa Anderson and seconded by Ethan Keyser. Matt accepted the nomination, and no other nominations were made. Council members voted unanimously to elect Matt St. Ledger Council Chair for the new year.

**Council Vice Chair:** Molly Seals was nominated to serve as Vice Chair by Julie Clodfelter and seconded by Karissa Anderson. Molly accepted the nomination, and no other nominations were made. Council members voted unanimously to elect Molly Seals as Council Vice-Chair for the new year.

**Secretary:** Jerrie Roark was nominated to serve as Secretary by Ethan Keyser and Karissa Anderson seconded the motion. Jerrie accepted the nomination, and no other nominations

were made. Council members voted unanimously to elect Jerrie Roark as Secretary for the new year.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the May 7, 2025, meeting was reviewed by the council. Karissa Anderson made the motion to approve the minutes, Julie Clodfelter seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Tara Buerster presented funding sources FY26 and expenses.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Tara reported that we need one more council vacancy filled and she has someone in mind to ask.
- b) The Hunters Feeding Illinois was very successful. This was the first year for the program and had 83 deer donated with 2,698 pounds of venison. Estimated 10,792 servings of lean protein. Participating processors were Charlie's Deer Process and Legacy Meats. Hope to continue next season and Tara will take on due to loss in SNAP grant.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Open Meetings Act Training  
All new council members are required to take this training Tara will send the link.
- b) Close-Out of SNAP-Education Grant  
  
Tara reported that losing the SNAP program will have affects outside of staff and ways that costs could be adjusted. Thankful, that three of the employees that were affected have been able to find other employment opportunities. Tara also discussed other ideas for making up for the loss of funding.
- c) Audiences we have not reached/served. If council members know of anyone that would like to help with the Extension let them know.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

- a) **AG Report:** Katie provided a written report and shared information on what she has been working on in the communities and where she has been traveling and assisting where needed.

- b) **4-H/Youth Development:** Sam provided a written report and shared information on what she has been working on in the communities and schools and where she has been traveling and assisting where needed. Also discussed how losing the SNAP program is going to affect her programs going forward.
  
- c) **County Director/Unit:** Tara provided a written report and shared state and national events she is working on or attending. She also reported that there are no current staff openings.

**Public Comment**

**FUTURE MEETING DATE**

April 22 at 6 p.m.

September 17 at 6 p.m.

November 19 at 6 p.m.

Meetings will be held at the Edwards County Farm Bureau Meeting Room

**ADJOURN**

Karissa Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Matt St. Ledger seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.