

DeWitt-Macon-Piatt County Extension Council
Minutes for September 18, 2023
6:00 pm at Macon County Office

6:07 pm - Call to Order – Cassie Crouch

Welcome and introductions- Cassie Crouch

- What is your name, county, favorite candy and your connection to Extension

Members Present: Sonya Anthony, Janet Boomer, Cassie Crouch, Kathi Drozs, Jerry Edwards, Merry Lanker, Tayisha Nelson

Staff Present: Ben Steele, Doug Gucker, Sarah Vogel, Caitlin Mellendorf, Jamie Boas, Alexa McCoy, Henry Craft

There were no guests. There were no public comments.

Jamie and several of the educators gave an Extension Council/Orientation presentation. It included information about Extension's history, how Illinois Extension is currently set up, local staff and office locations, grand challenges and plan of work, the role of the council and the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act. Each council member was advised to take the training from the State of Illinois and turn a copy of completion into the office.

Approval of February and May 2023 meeting minutes is postponed until November due to lack of quorum.

Jamie Boas gave a fiscal update including explaining the various line items of funding- federal, state and local.

Cassie Crouch was approved as chairman. Jerry Edwards was approved as vice chairman. Sydnee Shafer was approved as secretary.

Personnel Updates- Jamie Boas

Position Openings:

- DeWitt/Piatt 4-H Youth Development Educator- Henry Craft starts 9/18
- Marketing EPC- Cortney Benton (was Macon 4-H)
- Macon
- Office Support Assistant- Closed 9/13
- Macon County 4-H (2)- Open Soon (Anne Reinbold will move to Piatt County 4-H)
- SNAP-Ed community worker (2)- Open this fall
- SNAP-Ed educator- Alexa McCoy started 9/5

Other Business-

- Remodel of Piatt County Office- expected to be finished in November
- Planning priorities for 23-24
 - Prior to the meeting, during dinner, members were asked to give answers to the

following questions:

- What do you want your community to look like in 20 years?
 - How do we know if Extension is successful?
 - How do we know if Extension is making an impact?
 - What makes Extension different than others?
- The members and staff split into two groups to sort and discuss answers. These were the main themes.
- Growth and prosperity, raising the whole community, people need to know how to use resources (because they are out there), energized, growing with everyone involved, green space, new businesses
 - Lots of possibilities to start and these lead to something else
 - Networking, keep momentum going, it's more than just numbers, it's success stories (marketing should highlight opportunities for kids and programs)
 - Academic based education with university backing, large and trusted organization, covers a lot of areas- lots of experts under one roof

Adjourned at 7:20pm

Next Extension Council Meeting: Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6pm (dinner at 5:15pm) at DeWitt County Extension Office at 8425 Katie Rd, Clinton

Submitted by Jamie Boas, Extension County Director and Sydnee Shafer, Council Secretary