

DeWitt-Macon-Piatt County Extension Council
Minutes for November 20, 2023
6:00 pm at Macon County Office

6:00 pm - Call to Order – Jerry Edwards

Welcome and introductions- Jerry Edwards

- What is your name, county, your connection to Extension and something you're looking forward to this fall/winter

Members Present: Sonya Anthony, Janet Boomer, Kathi Drozs, Wayne Dunning, Jerry Edwards, Cheryl Sample, Sydnee Shafer

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

Guest Present: Kendra Wallace.

There were no public comments.

Members were invited to review minutes from February, May and September 2023. Kathi moved and Jerry second to approve February's minutes. Motion passed. Jerry moved and Wayne second to approve May's minutes. Motion passed. Wayne moved and Kathi second to approve September's minutes. Motion passed

Jamie Boas gave a fiscal report and explained how each county currently has a checking account we call the "in and out account." She explained that Diana Tibbs is retiring and Stacy Nichols will be taking over some fiscal responsibilities so she can no longer be on the DeWitt in and out account. Wayne moved and Cheryl second to remove Stacy Nichols and Candice (previously Hart) Anderson, add Henry Craft and keep Jamie Boas and Kendra Wallace. Motion passed.

Jamie explained that many units are moving to one in and account for ease of doing business including reconciling. Kathi moved and Wayne second to move to one in and out account with signatories to be Jamie Boas, Henry Craft, Caitlin Mellendorf, Doug Gucker, Sarah Vogel and Ben Steele. Motion passed. This will be done in the next 3-6 months.

Personnel Updates- Jamie Boas

Position Openings:

- Macon County Office Support Assistant- Hired Shannon Bridges (started 11/13)
- Macon County 4-H (2)- Interviews are finished; expect two offers to be made
- SNAP-Ed community worker (2)- Finished interviewing for one position; will do the other next week
- Diana Tibbs, Office Support Assistant for DeWitt County, is retiring at the end of the year

Other Business-

- Remodel of Piatt County Office- staff is moving in on Wednesday, November 22 but it

will not be open for programming until January

- Discussion of programs and brainstorming marketing solutions:
 - SNAP-Ed educator Alexa McCoy presented an overview of SNAP-Ed including what it is, where it serves and the laying that will happen when community workers are hired.
 - Horticulture educator Sarah Vogel presented on Growing Great Vegetables and the Community Tree Care Series.
 - How do you hear about community events, programs and activities that you attend?
 - Facebook, Maroa Library bulletin board, Forsyth Library, word of mouth (most impactful), digital boards, boards at grocery stores, Y103, other radio stations, WAND TV, podcasts including Dr. Z, church
 - Where do you go for information about business/event/program/activity?
 - Need to push the unit wide email listserv and cross promote programs
 - Idea: What's upcoming in Extension? Flyer to hand out at programs to highlight what's coming up the next 4 weeks
 - Ask: What other interests does your family have?
 - Educators will continue to discuss and brainstorm cross promotion program strategies.
 - A lot of churches do community fun/activity days in April and May that we should get connected with
 - Who do you know that works in this field?
 - Dr. Morris does jr high and high school programs and youth grants
 - Janet Boomer will do an introduction for us
 - Mike Dixon- Piatt County
 - Need to get connected to neighborhoods for Decatur

Adjourned at 7:28pm

Next Extension Council Meeting: Monday, February 19, 2024 at 6 p.m. (dinner at 5:15 p.m.) at each county office (Clinton, Monticello and Decatur)

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