

**DeWitt-Macon-Piatt County Extension Council**  
**Minutes for February 19, 2024**  
**6:00 pm at Macon, Piatt and DeWitt County Offices**

6:02 pm - Call to Order – Cassie Crouch

Welcome and introductions-

**Members Present:** Sonya Anthony, Janet Boomer, Cassie Crouch, Taylor Crouch, Kathi Drozs, Wayne Dunning, Jerry Edwards, Merry Lanker, Tayisha Nelson, Cheryl Sample

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

There were no public comments.

Members were invited to review minutes from November 2023. Wayne moved and Janet second to approve. Motion passed.

Financial Report – Since Jamie was not present, the group will talk about dissolving the bank account of AO Producers at the May meeting.

Personnel update- Dewitt County Office Support Specialist had 19 applicants - excellent numbers using a variety of posting methods. Macon County 4-H hired two coordinators, Anay Hunt and Sophia Garriott in December. Sophia resigned 2/23 so that position is open and posted again. Two Macon Co SNAP-Ed Community workers are in the final stages of the hiring process and should start soon.

Other Business

The remodel of the Piatt County Office is finished. Some of the comments included it is a great design and use of space. Staff is currently looking to relocate the Dewitt County office.

Nutrition and Wellness educator, Caitlin Mellendorf, gave an update on the Deer Donation program. It has expanded to 16 counties and has delivered more than 11,000 pounds of meat to more than 50 food pantries. More meat may be delivered as processors finish remaining deer for the season. The program delivered in Macon Co, including NE Community Fund, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, and Niantic United Methodist.

Local foods and small farms educator, Doug Gucker, talked about 55 sec or less video clips that are being made and shared. He shared about the pawpaw plant, had a presentation on invasive insects and plant species and talked about the Plant Lab at U of I and how best to share the resource.

Adjournment - Motion Glen

2nd Taylor Crouch

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Next Extension Council Meeting: Monday, May 20, 2024 at 6pm (dinner at 5:15pm) at Piatt County office in Monticello

Submitted by Cassie Crouch, President