



Extension Council Meeting Minutes

Time and Place

A meeting of the Extension Council Board was held on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at Sarah Bush Lincoln's Lumpkin Education Center in Mattoon, IL.

Members Present at Meeting

Jessie Streit, Bristole Zimmerman, Janet Blade, Tom Webb, Elizabeth Mitsdarffer, Scott Seegmiller, Travis Phelps, Gary Gergeni, Kelly Barringer (virtual), and Tim Morse

Call to Order: Tom Webb (chair) called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Elizabeth Mitsdarffer took role call

Approval of September 4, 2025, Minutes: The September 4th, 2025, minutes are accepted as true and correct

Moved: Scott Seegmiller

Seconded: Travis Phelps

Motion carried

Program Spotlight

- Jenny Lee presented on the new Watershed Stewards Program, a training initiative funded by the Lumpkin Family Foundation to improve local water quality.

Old Business

- Extension Council Guidelines were updated in May 2025 by the Director of Illinois Extension.
 - Membership guidelines now state that only NINE active members with equal representation from each county are needed
 - Jessie will be connecting with individuals if a county does not have equal representation
 - Jessie also discussed adding an appendix to the new guidelines with specific terms for our council, as it is no longer specified in the guidelines.

New Business

- Jessie provided updates on several staffing positions, including interviews scheduled for next week for the Coles County 4-H Program Coordinator. The goal is to have someone in the position by January 12, 2026
 - She announced the return of their internship program for summer, will likely have the position assist with 4-H and/or food and nutrition
- Jessie presented various health and wellness programs available to organizations, including Mental Health First Aid Training, Dementia Friends training, and Witt's Fitness. She also discussed the Lessons for Living webinars and the Smartphones, Smart Families, Survival Kits initiative
- Jessie reported that, although the federal shutdown had a minimal impact on their unit, it affected university research funding at the Prairie Research Institute and increased community food assistance needs.
- Jessie presented the plan of work for 2026-2028, focusing on supporting strong and resilient youth, families, and communities; growing a prosperous economy; sustaining and restoring natural resources; maintaining a safe and accessible food supply; and maximizing health equity and supporting health promotion.
- Tom Webb's last meeting - will be selecting new leadership roles at the Q1 meeting

Dates of Interests

- 3/14/2025 - Master Gardener "spring into gardening conference" @ 8am, registration will open soon

Executive Session: NONE

Public Comments: NONE

Adjourn: Tom Webb adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Next Meeting: TBD - February time frame, potentially lunch time frame