

**Carroll, Lee & Whiteside Counties  
Extension Council  
MINUTES  
September 26, 2022**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in person and by Zoom by Karla Belzer.

**Attendance:**

Zoom: Karla Belzer, Mike Delany, Jennifer Lang, Emily Zimmerman, Marcia Zell

Person: Gordon Kelm, Pam Martinez, Mark Ward, Rachel Hill, Martha Ebbesmeyer, Bruce Black

**Public Comment:** None.

**Reports:**

Pam Martinez is stepping down from the council due to fulfilling 2 consecutive 2-year terms.

**Elections**

Chair: Rachel Hill

Vice Chair: Gordon Kelm

Secretary: Emily Zimmerman

**Minutes:**

Minutes from April 2022 were reviewed. Motion made to approve minutes as written made by Mark Ward, seconded by Gordon Kelm.

**Financial Report:**

Budget sheet provided by Mary Sheridan. Report provided by Karla Belzer. As a unit, we are doing very well. Not much has changed with the budget. Expenditures are higher than income, and that is ok. We are sitting on 24 months of carryover for the entire unit. However, this isn't necessarily a good thing as we are only meant to have approximately 9 months of carry over. Our state match is now caught up through the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY22, which is very encouraging. Spending the carryover over the next few years is a priority so we can maintain funding from our stakeholders.

**Programming Update:**

Family Life - Karla said the programming has not changed much the past year with her balancing that role on top of county director. Brain health programming is now in 5 locations, and partner programs upon request. There are many partnerships that need the programming and

Ag and Natural Resources - Bruce discussed the monthly horticulture series in the Sterling middle school, master gardener professional training. Martha and Bruce over the summer had free use summer gardens they met for 7-10 weeks. Recipes derived through the summer program was put in a cookbook for the gardeners to take home.

4-H Youth Development – Martha Ebbesmeyer discussed hiring 3 new staff members in July. Successful summer day camp, looking into a regular camping session next summer. Reaching close to 200 kids Montmorency. Four youth involved in Sauk's impact program will begin being involved. Still continuing to find new staff.

Community and Economic Development – Mike Delaney highlighted that the work done in Whiteside County with health equity project, SNAP-Ed is closing out its first year and moving into a new phase. Surveys have been collected and they will be assessed on how to move forward. Carroll County I-rural program is doing tourism development work with Savanna and other communities with the new Mayor (U of I Alum). CED has been supporting broadband work in Whiteside and Lee County groups, with the goal of bringing broadband to all levels of the counties. The absence of housing for middle income families is an upcoming item CED will be looking at. There are workshops coming together to bring experts to strategize the development of housing for that middle class SES. Corn belt ports initiative and Illinois innovation network are upcoming topics Mike will be involved with as well.

Question: What is considered middle income?

Answer: Mike stated \$50k-\$100k

Master Gardener/Master Naturalist – Bruce stated 5 individuals are going through the fall master gardener training, which is the second largest class, with members representing all three counties. There is currently not a training scheduled for master naturalist program for next year. Karla mentioned both master gardeners and master naturalists contributed a lot of volunteer hours into the community this year. Master gardeners valued approximately \$40,000 between Whiteside and Carroll counties, which was close to 1400 hours of service. Master naturalists did around 1500 hours or service, valued at \$42,000.

New Business:

Janice McCoy accepted the position as the assistant regional director for region 2 on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. County director position closed on September 6<sup>th</sup>, with interviews beginning in October. Unit staffing has been a challenge due to multiple staff moving on. Incentive: all full-time staff are eligible for 100% of their tuition to be paid at one of 10 state schools. A youth development educator position was added to our unit, to help grow our 4-H program.

Civil Rights Review are happening to include underserved groups. Emily suggested looking into how extension can get involved in the Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery program, which is a program designed for individuals who are recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. Winning Wheels, and Frontier Hollow are two programs Mark Ward suggested as well. Jennifer Lang suggested extension having a booth at Parent Teacher conferences, like what KSB Hospital and United Way of Lee County does. This would give the attention to the parents/adults to show what and who we are serving.

Other Business:

Demographic/data collection: Compliance of civil rights responsibilities and reports is to collect data on the council. Questions are on demographics and is confidential. One recommendation that was made from the annual civil rights review is to firm up the process for getting information from the council. All councilmembers will be sent a link and asked to respond.

Openings - Need 2 additional members from Whiteside County and one additional member from Carroll County to sit on the advisory council.

ESAC Mark has nothing to report on currently, there is a meeting coming up.

Last meeting of 2022: November 7<sup>th</sup>. Dates of 2023 will be set by that next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:10 PM by Karla Belzer

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Zimmerman