

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

**Unit 1 Extension Council Meeting
Thursday, January 17, 2019**

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions; In attendance: Council members Angie Goral, Don Kowlaski, Jeff White, Jim Webster, Bob DeSchepper, Tom Scheider, Monica Pierce, Chris Urish, Deb Lischwe, Ray Massingill, Rick Dittmar, Beth Baranski, Drew Groezinger, Don Klinger. Staff members Margaret Larson, Angela Miller, Diane Reinhold, Phillip Alberti, Jay Solomon, Grant McCarty, Gina Adams, Annie Hobson.
2. Review and approve agenda for meeting: Rick moved to accept the agenda with the addition of officer appointments; seconded by Beth. Passed by vote.
3. Review minutes of April 2018 and also members report on summer “meeting” activities: Beth moved to accept the minutes as submitted by Mike Shore. Seconded by Don Kowalski. Passed by vote.
4. Update on finances (county support, unit budget, state situation): A copy of the income and expenses for FY19 are in packets. Also, a month by month spending report is in the packets. Margaret shared that Winnebago County has now put Extension if their budget as a regular line item so we will not have to apply for host fee funds each year. Stephenson County has approve an increase for Extension, bringing the annual donation up to \$190,000, the first increase in many years. Don Klinger shared that this positive financial news is possible because of the work being done in the counties and the positive impact Extension has made.

An update on state funding was shared—FY 18 nearly fully funded by the state as well as the \$5 million added to the state Extension budget. No information has been shared regarding how this money will be used, but Margaret assured the council it will be used to move Extension forward.

5. Update on staffing (unit and state-new director, new director of communications): Margaret shared that we are currently interviewing for a 4-H program coordinator in Unit 1. Updated the council on the appointment of Dr. Nickols-Richardson as Director, beginning Feb 1. It was also shared that Extension has hired a new Director of Communication.
6. Updates from staff present:
Grant McCarty, Local Foods and Small Farms Educator share the we are in the middle of the winter Ag and Natural Resources programming. He is working on the Specialty Growers Conference which is a statewide Conference held in Springfield. He is planning the Stateline Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference in Rockford, and doing consultation on pruning.

Annie Hobson, Youth Development Educator in Rockford, shared that she is extending her Police Academy and doing a program with the police for students at West Middle School. She is doing her Health Jam program at Nelson School. 95 youth are involved. She is also on a team with

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other Youth Development Educators and they are working on a toolkit to support those working with youth living in poverty.

Gina Adams, SNAP Program Coordinator in Rockford, shared that the staff are starting to do IL Jr. Chef programming and are planning programs in the Rockford Schools.

Phillip Alberti is the Commercial Agriculture Educator and he is working on the Agronomy Summit which will be held in Freeport later in January. He stated that he has learned a great deal about programming since joining the staff in January 2018. He and another educator in southern Illinois are in charge of the statewide Soil Fertility Webinar in February so he has been working on that. He is working on a Soil Compaction Workshop with the staff of the Winn County SWCD, is planning the workshop on Industrial Hemp, and is teaching part of the Pesticide Safety program.

Jay Solomon, Energy and Environmental Stewardship Educator, is working on livestock programming, including the Grazing Conference with the Illinois Forage and Grasslands Association's Institute. Also working on the Driftless Beef Conference with Extension people from IA, WI, and IA, and also a Forestry Program in Jo Daviess County with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Diane Reinhold, Nutrition and Wellness Educator, shared that she focuses on Chronic Disease programming. She is teaching Meals for a Healthy Heart and a class on Inflammation this spring. She will also be continuing to work on school nutrition programs for food service personnel who need six hours of continuing education each year. She is also teaching several sections of the Food Protection Manager course.

Angela Miller, 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator in Jo Daviess County provided a report for 4-H activities in all counties. They are all working with their leadership groups, working on 4-H project days, afterschool programs, and of course supporting the 4-H clubs and their volunteers. Many of the staff are involved in 4-H camp and camp counselor training.

7. Update on Extension EEOC Plan and Open Meetings Act: Council was made aware of the EEOC plan that was recently completed. They were also asked to complete the online training for the Open Meetings Act.
8. Elections: Elections for officers were held. A slate of officers including Don Kowalski for Chairperson, Beth Barnaski for Vice Chairperson and Monica Peirce for Secretary was presented. Motion was made by Drew to accept the slate; Angie seconded. Motion passed by vote.
9. Next meeting will be April 4 in Stephenson County Extension Office. Dinner will be ready at 6:00 pm and the meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.