

**Carroll, Lee & Whiteside Counties
Extension Council
MINUTES
November 7, 2022**

Call to Order:

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

Attendance:

Emily Zimmerman, Karla Belzer, Martha Ebbesmeyer, Mark Ward, Teresa Smith, Gordon Kelm, Rachel Hill, Abbey DeShane, Bruce Black, Marcia Zell
Others present: Susan Jacobs

Public Comment: None.

Reports:

Minutes:

Minutes from September 2022 were reviewed. Motion made to approve minutes as written made by Mark, seconded by Gordon. Motion carried.

Programming Updates:

Staffing update: Karla Belzer is officially the new County Director. New youth development educator position has some promising candidates and interviews will be starting soon. Carroll County position also will have candidates to interview soon as well. SNAP Ed educator position is still open. Bilingual 4-H coordinator for Whiteside County did not have any applicants.

Budget Update: There is an ongoing concern for a high carryover, which resulted in a reduction from Whiteside County. Adding the new positions and being fully staffed will help spend down that carryover.

Programming Updates: Karla is wrapping up programs.

Bruce Black: There are 200 people who got involved in the gardening in the air program. Still down numbers since before the pandemic, but very happy with the turnout. A science experiment was also done today with cranberries for the challenge programs.

Martha Ebbesmeyer shared the highlights of the awards ceremonies and the many celebrations that have been happening. The team is looking forward to interviewing and onboarding once staff members are added to the team. Z-suites, the new 4-H registration site, is now open for families in the three counties to register. Leaders will be able to get on and access many reports on this as well. We are working with Sauk's Impact Program, there are 14 teachers currently participating and going through the training to help students get involved.

New Business:

Office Closures: Thanksgiving, and day after Thanksgiving. Winter break will be Friday, December 23rd through Monday, January 2nd.

Annual Conference: November 15th and 16th, 2022 on campus. Offices will be closed on those days so employees can focus on continuing education.

Civil Rights:

Karla asked the council last meeting to discuss or bring up ideas to help target underserved audiences. Members brought up partnering with Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery. Possibly working with Lee and Whiteside County senior centers and target the elderly population. There was a staff meeting to brainstorm planning activities and looking at underserved audiences.

Mark Ward: Extension building planning are looking into design and how they want it to look. Turnover statewide is higher than normal. There is a task force working on retention and recruitment.

Other Business:

State Representative Involvement:

Karla's to-do list involves meeting with all state representatives and ensuring that they are aware of what the extension is doing and inviting them to the fairs and shows.

Council and Committees need to fill out a 30 second demographic survey via email. Needing council members, one from Carroll County and two from Whiteside County. Looking for equal representation by having a diverse community member.

2023 Meeting dates:

All meetings at this time will begin at 6 p.m. and will be offered in person and on Zoom

Next meeting: February 13th, 2023

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. made by Abbey DeShane, seconded by Teresa Smith. No further discussion. Motion carried.

--Emily Zimmerman, Secretary