

**Carroll, Lee & Whiteside Counties
Extension Council
MINUTES
February 13, 2023**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. via Zoom by Rachel Hill. Council members engaged in group introductions.

Attendance:

Mark Ward, Gordon Kelm, Abbey DeShane, Rachel Hill, Teresa Smith, Teresa Galloway, Deeann Kramer, Eileen Piper, Marcia Zell. Others present: Karla Belzer, Martha Ebbesmeyer, Bruce Black, Mike Delany

Public Comment: None.

Reports:

Please see council reports for additional report information.

Martha Ebbesmeyer reported on 4H programming including that Health Jam wrapped up and shared with the group the t-shirt that students earned in the Walk Across Illinois challenge. Martha also shared the Whiteside 4-H Federation tie blankets that were made for and donated to DCFS.

Bruce Black reported on Ag and Natural Resources programming and shared that he is engaging in planning for summer gardens. The program will have gardens in each of the counties in the unit. He has started working with the West Carroll school district in working on a garden to cafeteria grant to initiate a new garden project in Carroll County. Planning for Ready Set Grow Garden workshop is wrapping up. Registration is open for the half-day event on March 18.

Mike Delany reported on Community and Economic Development programming in the unit and shared that the I-Rural project in Carroll County will be wrapping up with final reports and toolkits for the Savanna community. Mike also reported on collaborations with campus staff and connecting extension to the areas of the state. The HEAT project that is addressing food insecurity in Whiteside County is expanding the food insecurity initiative that will connect with a tri-county initiative with the social determinants of health. The project team will look at issues of food access and availability throughout the county and beyond.

Karla Belzer reported on the budget for the unit.

New Business

Karla Belzer shared the extension council guide and engaged the council in discussion on how to proceed with council business. The goal is to have council to provide a stronger feedback loop to the unit regarding programs and services. Specific feedback received from the council included:

- There is a need to reach more Hispanic youth with Extension programming
- Outreach to youth engaged in agriculture and the arts is desired/needed
- Concerns expressed about moving from a one-year plan of work to a three-year plan of work

- Montmorency programming is helpful. Consider replicating that model in other schools.
- Request for EPC staff to join council meetings with the recommendation of two attending each meeting
- Request for a timeline of programming for an entire year tied into the plan of work
- There is a need for more local pesticide training and more local Extension involvement in Agriculture

Other Business

Mark Ward provided an ESAC update.

Remaining Meeting Dates for 2023- all meetings at 6 p.m.

- NEW Council year
 - Tuesday, September 19
 - Monday, November 6

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. made by Gordon Kelm, seconded by Abbey DeShane. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Belzer