Unit 27 Council Meeting

September 22, 2022

11:00a.m. – 1:00 pm

**MINUTES**

An informational Unit Council “orientation” was offered at 10:00 am for anyone wanting to gain information and insight to the organization, structure, and purpose of the Extension Council a/k/a Unit Council. The orientation was attended by County Director Johnson, Monica Meyer, Kendyl Boysen, Kristen Cameron, Chesley Williams, Ruby Lingle, Denna Williams, Chuck Weilmuenster, Ethyn Bradley, Emily Myrick and Amy Johnson.

The official Unit 27 Council Meeting was called to order by County Director Johnson at 11:31 a.m. Verbal introductions were made around the table and civil rights information slips were circulated around the room.

Council members present:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Alexander/Pulaski | Johnson | Massac | Union |
| Denna WilliamsEthyn Bradley | Amy Johnson Emily MyrickChesley Williams | Cheryl Vanderford | Kristen CameronKendel BoysenRuby LingleChuck Weilmuenster |

Staff present: County Director Johnson, Dena Wood, Monica Meyer, Vickie Taylor, Kristi Stout, Destenie Sullivan and John Shadowens.

Meeting minutes from May 11, 2022, were reviewed. Motion made by Ruby Lingle and seconded by Cheryl Vanderford to approve prior minutes. Motion carried.

Council Business

* **Elect Officers**

Current officers: President Phyllis Webb (Johnson Co)

Vice- President Ann Terry (Pul-Alex Co)

Secretary Chris Boyd (Union Co)

Financial Reporter Pearl Meadows (Massac Co)

* Nomination made by Cheryl Vanderford for Ruby Lingle to serve as President.
* Nomination made by Ruby Lingle for Cheryl Vanderford to serve as Vice-President.
* Self- nomination made by Chesley Williams to serve as Secretary.
* Self-nomination made by Ethyn Bradley to serve as Financial Reporter.

Motion made by Emily Myrick to approve all nominations, seconded by Chuck Weilmuenster. Motion carried. Brief discussion was held to acknowledge and approve Ruby Lingle to signing forms to send to campus with officer designations.

* **Proposed Check Signers**

County Director Johnson gave a brief explanation of the in/out checking accounts maintained by each County office and the purpose of dual check signers. Motion was made by Chuck Weilmuenster, seconded by Ethyn Bradley for the following individuals to serve as check signers at the specified County office. Motion carried.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Alexander/Pulaski | Johnson | Massac | Union |
| Jody JohnsonSarita SawyerDena Wood | Jody JohnsonKim Rohling Tiffney Stewart | Jody JohnsonNorma KorteVickie Taylor  | Jody JohnsonLinda PostonDena Wood |

* A quick review of the campus holiday schedule was conducted by attendees to be aware of anticipated office closures.
* Extension Board – Each County Board is to appoint someone to the Extension Board, currently Johnson County has appointed Gary Brumley and Pulaski County has appointed Rex Wilborn. County Director Johnson will work with Alexander, Massac, and Union to have their appointments made. Officers from Unit Council are asked to serve on Extension Board, two male and two female are preferred. Ethyn Bradley, Chuck Weilmuenster, Amy Johnson and Emily Myrick are all volunteers to serve. The next Extension Board meeting will be scheduled in February prior to the Unit Council meeting.
* County Extension Director Report
	+ Plan of Work / New issues or concerns in community – The current Plan of Work

was reviewed, core areas being Community, Health, Environment, Economy and Food and all the subcategories of each.

* + Budget – Per correspondence from Harry Clore, Finance Director for Extension,

Extension has received all money owed by the State of Illinois and is in the best financial position since he has held his position. County Director Johnson praised Harry Clore for his generosity in budgeting and assistance to Unit 27. Smith Lever funds continue to be received from campus allocations. Updated account balances were provided and discussed with no worries or concerns offered. County Director Johnson expressed thanks to County Commissioners and the County Boards in their continued payments and cooperation.

* + Civil Rights and efforts to reach underserved audiences – Staff recently

participated in a full day of training and discussion on Civil Rights Compliance and plan to move from a paper-based collection system to an online reporting system. The Unit will be audited in Spring 2023 to evaluate civil rights reporting and compliance.

* + General updates (Facilities, vacancies, and other) – COVID-19, all staff are either

vaccinated or given an exemption that requires weekly testing. The Union Co. office has new owners, Pulaski/Alexander Co. office has undergone complete remodeling, Massac and Johnson Co. office leases amount have increased. Once vacancy exists for an Extension Program Coordinator for the Natural Resources Environmental Energy program and applicants are being accepted until October 5.

* MY PI program was brought from Mississippi Extension, has trained over

100 youth to prepare their homes plus six other homes for disaster preparedness. These youth become certified volunteers to assist with disaster recovery. This is a FEMA program and SICF donated $15,000 to support this program and Treca McConnell has been hired as a coordinator.

* AMERICORPS Vista is ongoing with two Vistas working (one being

Emily Myrick, Unit Council member), hopes are two bring two more on by later winter. Current programming is a Vienna and Egyptian High schools. This program is at no cost to Extension.

* R3 grant (marijuana sales tax dollars) has been awarded to Unit 24/27 to

address violence in at risk youth in Harrisburg, Cairo and Mounds.

* President Killeen and Chancellor Jones recently visited Southern Illinois

and a conversation was held concerning the potential for a Southern Illinois Initiative line item in the state budget.

* Unit Reports
	+ 4-H Youth Development staff – Kristi Stout, Vickie Taylor, Dena Wood

4-H staff were on campus yesterday for their annual meeting to wrap of the program year. Numerous figures and statistics were shared which ultimately showed that 4-H had substantial growth in all areas including enrollment, minority reach (specifically black and Hispanic youth), volunteer hours and new clubs. There are 102 counties in Illinois with Pulaski/Alexander being 1st in club enrollment growth (up 329%), Johnson being 2nd (up 146%) and Union being 4th (up 93%). Minority reach statewide is at 34% and has increased by 92%, with this growth 23,000+ youth have been reached.

There were 2,900 state fair entries - Unit 27 was represented by each of its five counties at this year’s fair. Ethyn Bradley (council member) presented his HAM radio project and was awarded the prize of Grand Champion for one of the life program projects.

* CED – John Shadowens, Destenie Sullivan – Outline given on HEAT project focusing on

food insecurity in eleven counties, including Cairo and Gallatin County. Both areas are high poverty and have had no grocery store for a significant number of years. This project is helping with community needs, food pantries and to discover other non-food related healthy goals for the region. This project will run thru June 2023 and hopes are to have a lease signed for the future home of RISE Community Market in Cairo this fall. Gallatin County is now showing to be a s successful for a physical grocery story but there is potential for a “mobile market” to be created.

* + ANR Environment and Energy Stewardship and SNAP/INEP program areas are

ongoing and their program activity reports were provided in member packets.

* Other information/questions – all upcoming dates/events can be found on our Facebook

page and home page at <https://extension.illinois.edu/ajmpu/events>. Dixon Springs Ag Center is hosting a Southern Illinois Whitetail weekend for youth to obtain their hunter safety license and get hands on experience with tree stand safety and harvesting a deer with complete field dressing.

Dates and Times of future council meetings

* December 8, 2022 @ Vienna – 11am-1pm
* February 23, 2023 @ Vienna – 11am-1pm
* May 25, 2023 @ Vienna – 11am-1pm

Motion to adjourn made by Emily Myrick and seconded by Kendel Boysen. No objections, meeting adjourned at 1:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Meyer

Unit 27 - Office Support Associate

For Unit 27 Unit Council secretary, Chesley Williams