



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**University of Illinois Extension
Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington Counties
Unit 23**

Multi-County Council Minutes
February 15, 2023; 11:30 am
@ Clinton County Extension Office

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Jordee Koehler at 11:30 a.m.

Roll Call:

Council members present answering to roll call in person included: Natalie Wellen Shook, Julie Brooks, Wesley Gozia and Elaine McNamara and Dee DeMoss via Zoom. Staff in attendance were Jordee Koehler, Chris Lueking, Kara Boozer, Amber Heern, Jamie Mahlandt, Daniel Simonton and Rhonda Mueller.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2022:

Approval of the November 9, 2022 meeting minutes were tabled due to not having a quorum present.

Extension Updates – County Director:

Jordee discussed the status of the Mobile Markets. The University has decided that they will no longer sign contracts for Mobile Markets due to the missing education piece. Due to this development, the markets have been turned over to SSM, United Way and the Nashville FFA.

The status of the open staffing positions is:

Bond County 4-H EPC position – interviews have begun

Jefferson County Office Support Assistant – interviews will be held on February 17, 2023

SNAP Ed Educator – interviews will be held in March

Jefferson and Marion County Community Outreach Worker positions – these positions are posted

ANR EPC position – this position just posted

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Marketing Presentation – Daniel Simonton

Daniel is the new marketing coordinator for the Unit dealing with on-line platforms. Daniel discussed the changes in communication style and how Illinois Extension can utilize social media to its benefit – especially Facebook, Instagram and You-Tube. Extension is looking at new ways of reaching clients – podcasts and how-to videos.

Educator Updates – Amber Heern, Kara Boozer, Chris Lueking, and Jamie Mahlandt

The Educators are wrapping up the needs assessment and are sifting through the data and will have an update for the May Council meeting.

Amber Heern – Youth and 4-H

Amber started in her position in January. She comes to Extension with 15 years of Education teaching experience. Amber has jumped in and is assisting the Bond County Program on setting up their fair logistics due to the vacancy of an EPC. She attended the Southern Illinois Coalition for Substance Abuse and Prevention meeting in an effort to establish some networking avenues. Amber informed members that the Little Food Pantry was installed last week at the Ashley Library.

Kara Boozer – Youth and 4-H

Kara informed the council that she is currently helping the EPC's get all the pieces for fair in place (finalizing the Show book, ordering fair prizes, hiring judges, etc.) She indicated that there are several unit events planned -- Public Speaking Workshop, Passport Party, Leadership Workshop. The Unit Show of Champions will be held this year in Washington County.

Chris Lueking – Ag & Natural Resources

Chris was awarded a grant with NASA – Plant the Moon. She has 2 team kits (Marion and Jefferson County). The youth were given the choice of planting lettuce, basil, green beans, sunflowers or radishes. They plant the varieties using different controls of moon soil (25%, 50%, 75% and 100%). The youth water and measure every week. After the plants are established, they will be replanted in the community gardens in the local communities. Chris is working with Daniel on creating a planting video at the beginning of the project, in the middle and at the end of the project. There will be a culminating event at the end of the program which will include an interview with an astronaut.

Master Gardener training is currently being held. There will be 5 weeks of instruction held in the Washington County Office and 5 weeks of instruction in the Jefferson County Office. The training is a hybrid format where live sessions are held on Tuesday mornings from 9-10:30 and hands on sessions on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm with field trips being held on weekends.

Jamie Mahlandt – Family Consumer Science Educator

Jamie has been instrumental in the Unit Needs Assessment data collection.

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Jamie's first educational program was a Facebook weekly post that she has partnered with Daniel in Marketing on. It started in October (Mindful Mondays) and she feels that it is going really well. She is analyzing the reach and engagement to make sure that her programming is geared toward the needs of the local communities.

Jamie will be launching a blog in March on Finding Financial Balance with the state website. She will also be getting a Personal Finance tab on our website.

Jaime and Kara will be partnering together for all Juniors at Woodlawn High School to present the newly revised Welcome to the Real World Curriculum.

Jaime informed everyone that she will be participating in a live webinar on February 16 on Financial Preparedness for Older Adults. The webinar will be recorded and the links will be sent out to anyone who registered for the program.

Jordee indicated that the Needs Assessment is showing that Financial Literacy is where our focus needs to be.

Jordee Koehler – SNAP Ed

Hopefully there will be an Educator on board soon.

Financial Update:

Members reviewed the Financial Report for January.

Old Business:

No Old Business was discussed.

New Business:

The next council meeting will be held on May 17 @ 11:30 at the Marion County Extension Office.

The meeting was adjourned by Jordee at 12:20 pm.