**University of Illinois Extension**

**Unit 3 Council Minutes**

**April 25, 2023**

**6pm**

**Zoom**

[**https://illinois.zoom.us/j/83792613845?pwd=ZWFhOTFUUFA1REVvOStzTmdqREN2Zz09**](https://illinois.zoom.us/j/83792613845?pwd=ZWFhOTFUUFA1REVvOStzTmdqREN2Zz09)

**Welcome:** Dr. Michelle Cox

**Attendance:**  Jeanne Ang, Ken Barber, Nora Barquin, Darnell Clay, Molly Dittmer, Cindy Dittmer, Commissioner Brian Sager, Commissioner John Waski, Margaret White, Sarah Zach

**Extension Staff**:Dr. Michelle Cox - County Director, Sarah Farley - Local Food System/Small Farms, Sandra Prez - 4-H Youth Development Educator

**Missing**: Oscar Bonilla Jr., Richard Frierson, Dale Kehr, William King, Theresa Meshes, Regina Rakoncay, Elvis Tillet, Commissioner Gloria Van Hof, Camille Winer

**Minutes**: Molly Dittmer, Secretary

Per last month’s addendum, effective April 25, 2023, Molly asked the members if everyone had received the March minutes. They have, so Molly then continued on and read the minutes. They asked if there were any changes or corrections. There were two changes; Commissioner Brian Sager was the Mayor of Woodstock, not Crystal Lake and Ofelia Delgado is the Extension Program Coordinator (EPC), not Lake County Educator. After making those changes, Dr. Cox and Molly stated that the minutes are approved as corrected. No motions were initiated.

**County Gov. Board Update:**

**McHenry-** Commissioner Brian Sager

Commissioner Sager talked about the long term 2050 plan for McHenry County. He invited everyone to work with the county to help with input for the plan. The county is planning on how best to fill in the $700,000,000 gap to serve the important efforts for the transit system. They are lobbying with federal and state partners along with the city of Chicago.

**Lake-** Commissioner John Wasik

Commissioner Wasik discussed seeking $20,000,000 in funds for mental health services. Lake County is going through the review process along with various committee meetings for this initiative. He congratulated the Master Gardeners for their recent successful Green Living Fair event at the College of Lake County and also to Sandra Prez for her wonderful work with the robotics engineers program.

**4-H County Update:**

**McHenry-** Molly Dittmer filled in for Oscar and talked about several upcoming events such as sheep weighing, dog class registration, youth scholarship applications, and a summer teen leadership camp. Also mentioned is that the Green Communities Tree program is looking for 4-H club members to volunteer to help plant four foot tall oak seedlings soon.

**Lake-** Molly Dittmer talked about county events coming up including summer shooting sports for both counties, a small pets show, the State robotics competition, and the dog show. A question was asked as to where this show's location will be and Molly will report back at next month’s meeting with that information.

**Treasury Report:** Ken Barber

Ken reported that Dr. Michelle Cox is continuing to work with the Lake County Office Support Specialist to complete Unit 3’s 2024 budget. The 2024 budget year runs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. The final 2024 budget will be approved by July 2023.

**County Directors Updates:** Dr. Michelle Cox

**Old Business**

Dr. Cox reminded all outstanding members to send in their Freedom of Information - FOIA Certifications. Once you complete the training or if you have taken it for another position then, it's one and done. Certificates need to get to her ASAP. Thank you to those who have already sent them in.

She is planning on sending out the Annual Report by June electronically for this council to review. They are still in the process of looking for SNAP Ed and outreach workers.

**New Business**

The University of Illinois will approve Brenda Dalfores as Master Naturalist in Mchenry County, along with a State Specialist for Natural Resources in June. We recently interviewed for a position for 4-H Youth Development and are hopeful to share the selected candidate by the next meeting. Dr. Cox shared an update regarding the Master Gardeners plant sale on May 20th, 2023, 9am-2pm in Grayslake, Illinois. (Link below). Come out and support the 4H family and also enjoy the bake sale supporting Molly’s 4-H club.

**Expansion and Review:** Sarah Farley, Local Food Systems and Small Farms- Educator

\*FYI- All mentioned links and fliers including the Jamboard links are listed at the bottom of the minutes for your convenience.

Sarah provided a wealth of information tonight and is focusing on building a culture of composting in the greater Chicagoland area, including local backyards and commercial. She asked the Council for resources and partners to help align with the composting initiative. Ideas were listed on the Jamboard and documented.

She also briefly talked about the McHenry County Farm Stroll coming up this fall and ways to advertise it. Please feel free to continue to add ideas on the Jamboard link listed below.

The Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition (IFSCC) is proudly joining individuals around the world to celebrate International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) from May 7-13. ICAW is the largest and most comprehensive education initiative of the global compost community. Sarah also talked about how the University of Illinois Extension will be involved on May 12th from 4-5:30pm in Chicago at the UIC Forum, 1213 So. Halstead Street, this is a wonderful opportunity to network with compost professionals and backyard garden enthusiasts after the Compost Summit. The event is open to the public to engage and learn how to be involved.

To see the many wonderful efforts on composting that the University of Illinois Extension has done and the plans for the future, please read the flier below “Building a Culture of Composting in Greater Chicagoland.” Also, see the University of Illinois Extension Lake and McHenry Counties Facebook page (link below) for current events including a free compost giveaway in partnership with Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO)scheduled for tomorrow, April 26th, 2023. For more information on Sarah and the work she does and has been involved in please see her bio link below.

**Adjourned at 7:03 pm**

Motion to adjourn the meeting- Jeanne Ang

Second the motion- Ken Barber

Voted and passed, no nays.

Next meeting- May 23rd, 2023, 6 pm, Zoom

Molly Dittmer, Secretary

Cindy Dittmer

Regina Rakoncay

***Links/Flier/Bio:***

Master Gardener Plant Sale: <https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2023-05-20-lake-county-master-gardener-2023-plant-sale>

Jamboard: <https://jamboard.google.com/d/1mIvVLtQqnEZVRmF0TOg-NA3cOG9QK9XQS0blejLEzEQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Compost Illinois Extension initiative website: <https://extension.illinois.edu/cook/composting-initiative>

International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW): <https://illinoiscomposts.org/icaw-2023/>

Building a Culture of Composting in Greater Chicagoland Case Statement: <https://illinoiscomposts.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Composting-Case-Statement_final-1.pdf>

Share information from our social media: <https://www.facebook.com/unit3lakemchenry>

Come/share info on our Compost Giveaway Event tomorrow (10am-3pm): <https://www.facebook.com/events/5984166954992658>

Sarah Farley’s bio: <https://extension.illinois.edu/lm/staff/sarah-farley#:~:text=Since%20joining%20the%20University%20of,to%20small%20farmers%20and%20nonprofits>.