Unit 27 Council Meeting February 23, 2023 11:00a.m. – 1:00 pm

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Ruby Lingle at 11:10 am. Verbal introductions were made around the table and civil rights information slips and meeting sign-in sheet were circulated around the room.

Council members present:

Alexander/Pulaski	Johnson	Massac	Union
Josie Eason	Amy Johnson	Orlando McReynolds	Kristen Cameron
Derek Eurales	Emily Myrick	Cheryl Vanderford	Kendell Boysen
Denna Williams	Chesley Williams		Ruby Lingle
Ethyn Bradley	_		Chuck Weilmuenster

Staff present: County Director Johnson, Angela Ralls, Sarita Sawyer, Monica Meyer, Tiffney Stewart, Patsy Bishop, Erin Garrett, Shannon Pulliam, Anne Townsend, Lizz Cooley-Questelle, Lacey Barnhill, Destenie Sullivan.

Meeting minutes from December 8, 2022, were reviewed. Motion made by Chuck Weilmuenster and seconded by Emily Myrick to approve prior minutes. Motion carried.

Council Business

• Illinois Open Meetings Act electronic training – Derek Eurales, Megan Henderson Denna Williams and Kristen Cameron have completed the training. Ruby Lingle and Chesley Williams report the website did not allow them access.

• Unit Council members – names and county representation review by each and agreed upon. Motion by Derek Eurales and seconded by Chesley Williams for Shawne Rhine to be replaced by Kelly Overhaug-Reed on Unit Council. Motion carried and paperwork signed by Ruby Lingle, President.

• Extension Board members – County Director Johnson will be meeting with County Boards in April to discuss fiscal budget agreements and will request the Commissioners to appoint members. Ethyn Bradley, Chuck Weilmuenster, Amy Johnson and Emily Myrick volunteered at the September meeting to serve. Next Extension Board meeting is May 25, 2023, at 10:00 am in the Vienna office.

County Extension Director Report

• Plan of Work focuses on the five grand challenges: Community, Health, Environment, Economy and Food. County Director Johnson shared last three years of program contacts for all areas and explained more about each area and how they are reached.

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• Budget – County Director Johnson does not plan to request any increase or change from the five counties for the FY24 budget. No objections raised by Council. Account balances were reviewed, and no concerns raised.

➢ COVID-19 − As of January 2023 campus removed testing and vaccination requirements for staff, precautions are still being taken.

Civil Rights and efforts to reach underserved audiences – County Director Johnson is really wanting to find ways to reach the Hispanic population in Union Co. and requests help/suggestions from Council members. Civil rights audit is scheduled for May 11, 2023. County Director Johnson shared direct education contacts made locally from 2018-2022 and no significant gaps are shown to any underserved audience. County Director Johnson and most of the staff attended the NAACP Martin Luther King breakfast where multiple staff and local leaders were awarded for their commitment and work to Alexander and Pulaski Counties focusing on their needs.

• General updates (Facilities, vacancies, and other) – No vacancies currently, no lease changes. Staff evaluations will be conducting in March. Broadband Initiatives continue statewide and public meetings need to be attended. AmeriCorps VISTA programs continue at Vienna and Egyptian schools. MY PI Illinois (disaster preparedness) just completed at Vienna and Metropolis high schools and is now running at Pope County and Joppa; Treca McConnell is the facilitator of this program and will be resigning in May. E-sports 4-H club has started meeting after school at Vienna High School as a pilot program and has 20-25 kids taking part. Multiple significant grants are being pursued by Extension and local partners for educational and innovative opportunities. County Director Johnson has submitted his promotion papers and has received a mentor award from campus.

Unit Reports

 SNAP/INEP – lunch was prepared by SNAP staff using recipes and programs offered in their daily program delivery. Lizz Cooley-Questelle, SNAP-Ed Extension Educator, provided education highlights on the healthy eating and physical activity solutions offered to Illinois SNAP eligible families. Each SNAP Community Worker highlighted and explained one of the curriculums they bring to the schools and communities; Sarita Sawyer discussed Great Garden Detectives; Tiffney Stewart discussed Create Better Health, Patsy Bishop discussed CATCH and Healthy Cents and Shannon Pulliam discussed Organwise Guys and Eat.Move.Save booths. Lacey Barnhill discussed her work in Cobden school with a pilot project to bring "share tables" to lunchrooms to recover uneaten, unopened food. Lacey is also working with the Metropolis Public Library to develop and promote a "story walk" to bring together health activity and reading in the community. Lacey Barnhill and Sarita Sawyer just completed accreditation work with IL Department of Public Health to bring vaccine awareness to the public and will have Community Health Worker credentials in April.

o Natural Resources, Energy and Environment – Erin Garrett and Anne Townsend

provided handouts on Master Naturalist training, reminded Council members that it's garden time and volunteers are going to be needed. Units 26 and 27 will be hosting the statewide Master Naturalist program at Touch of Nature in the fall.

• Community and Economic Development – Council members were directed to the updates provided in their council packets and County Director Johnson is going to email members the Grocer Summit powerpoint from the public meeting hosted by Senator Fowler. CED will be highlighted at the April meeting and John Shadowens will be present to discuss the status of Rise Community Market, the Cairo grocery store.

 \circ 4-H Youth Development – 4-H has over 800 youth enrolled in the five counties and Unit 27 was the top Unit in growth in the state of Illinois.

➢ Josie Eason passed out flyers for the African American Murals in Far Southern Illinois to share awareness and exposure of the history and exhibits offered and reminded everyone that February is black history month. The Mounds African American Museum hours are Saturday and Sunday 2pm-5pm.

Dates and Times of future council meetings

- May 25, 2023 @ Vienna 11am-1pm
- September 21, 2023 @ Vienna 11am-1pm

Motion to adjourn made by Derek Eurales and seconded by Josie Eason. No objections, meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Monica Meyer Unit 27 - Office Support Specialist For Unit 27 Unit Council secretary, Chesley Williams