



**Extension Board Meeting**  
**DeKalb County 4-H General Projects Show**  
**Farm Bureau Bldg., 1350 W Prairie Drive, Sycamore IL**  
**Thursday, July 13, 2023, 10:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

1. Introductions: Patrick Deutsch, DeKalb County Board member, Heather Coyle, Peggy Doty, Mike Delany, and Teresa Schwarz were present.
2. Event Tours and Interviews with volunteers, participants, and staff- toured 4-H General Projects exhibits. Interviewed volunteers and judges to see why they want to be involved in 4-H, and what keeps them coming back each year.

Peggy Doty, Natural Resources Energy, and Environment Educator, spoke about the Natural Resource Education Center (NREC) in Genoa and the importance of having this resource available in DeKalb County. They do field studies in the spring and fall, events, and youth and adult education. Adventure Works in DeKalb uses NREC for their outdoor adventure activities. She also spoke of the Franciscan Water Grant and the watershed project that was worked on by the STEM club last year.

We spoke with Kathy Dombek, 4-H Program Coordinator, and she said the Hometown Leaders met with the Boone County Board in February. The idea was to get youth familiar with county government services, opportunities for civic engagement, and possible career paths. She and Mike would like to get something like this in DeKalb County. Kathy also talked about the 4-H club formed at Opportunity House in DeKalb and their General Projects show is coming up in September.

Woodworking judge, Richard, said that he “loves to hear what kids say and how they learn different tools” when they do a woodworking project for the 4-H show. He said that “engaging families” in the project the child is working on is the best outcome. Cindy was judging clay projects, and she said that “4-H and the projects the kids work on is a confidence booster for them”.

3. County Needs Discussion: The value of Extension to local communities and the needs of DeKalb County were discussed. Themes included continued youth development, mental health outreach, agriculture business and sustainability, agriculture education, natural resources (soil and water), and minority and new audiences.
4. Budget Materials
    - a. Financial Statement
    - b. Rationale
    - c. Impact Report
    - d. County Funding Request- Extension Board member, Patrick Deutsch, was present and agreed with the request of \$36,000 from DeKalb County.

## 5. Lunch, Adjourned at 12:20 PM

### DeKalb County Schedule

Thursday, July 13 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Project Judging

Friday, July 14, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Public viewing

Monday, July 17, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Project Pick-up

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**Council Roles Summarized:** \* Linking University of Illinois Extension with local leadership, communities, agencies, and organizations.

\* Supporting and advocating for Extension programs. Identifying needs and potential resources (human, financial, physical).

\* Advise the program planning and implementation processes. \* Assuring council membership represents all segments in counties served. \* Assuring program outreach meets equal opportunity and program access guidelines.