



# Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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

Multi-County Council Minutes  
October 18, 2023; 11:30 am  
@ Clinton County Extension Office

### Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Sam Phillips at 11:37 a.m.

### Roll Call:

Council members present answering to roll call included: Elaine McNamara, Nick Suess, Mike Bruns, Marla Guggenheimer, Jeff Pingsterhaus, Sam Phillips, Wesley Gozia, Julie Miessner, Galen Mahle, Charlie Hensley, Herb Williams, Dee DeMoss, Matt Hornbostel and Julie Karmeier. Staff in attendance were Jordee Koehler, Chris Lueking, Kara Boozer, Jamie Mahlandt and Rhonda Mueller.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 16, 2023:

A motion was made by Wesley Gozia with a second by Galen Mahle to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

### County Director Updates:

Jordee shared the staffing chart for the Unit to better show the recent hirings and current open positions. Kara Boozer has transitioned from the 4-H area over to the SNAP-Ed area; the Jefferson County 4-H EPC interviews have been conducted and are in the process of making an offer; the Jefferson and Marion County SNAP Community Outreach positions are in the process of being filled as well; there will be a transfer of the 4-H EPC over to the Ag & Natural Resource team so that will leave a vacancy in the Marion County 4-H EPC position.

The group discussed the need for an increased Ag presence for Extension. Sam invited the Council Group to give their input of the needs of their various communities. It was mentioned that it would be impactful for the council members to be invited to upcoming programs to view them firsthand. On the Ag topic it was discussed if there is a need for an additional educator in the Ag & Natural Resource or Commercial Ag area. The current Ag & Natural Resource Educator – Christina Lueking has her limitations due to the large size of the

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unit so it was discussed if there is a need for an additional source. The resource of Farm Doc Dailey that the University has was also discussed.

### **Educator Updates:**

Share Sessions were held with the following participating

FCS – Jamie Mahlandt

- Sam Phillips, Galen Mahle, Herb Williams, Jeff Pingsterhaus

SNAP – Kara Boozer

- Dee Demoss, Marla Guggenheimer, Julia Miesener, Mike Bruns

AG & Natural Resources – Christina Lueking

- Nick Suess, Charlie Hennessey, Matt Hornbostel, Elaine McNamara

### **Financial Update:**

Jordee showed the Financial Report showing all accounts of Unit 23 for September and gave updates on the various counties' Equalized Assessed Valuations (EAVs). Sam gave everyone an explanation of what EAV is and how the funding of Extension works. We can put in a request for our Levy amount but we cannot set the Levy – that has to be done by the County Board. Once a Levy amount is dropped it stays there (you can't bring it down for a few years and then want to bring it back up to the higher amount). The role of council members for Levy requests is to advise Jordee of the needs for their county as far as programming and if the citizens in their county need to be paying what they are for Extension services and if they are then the Levy request needs to increase at least by the amount of the new construction in that county. Jordee will enlist the help of the Council Members when the time comes to start discussions with the County Boards for the future funding requests.

### **Old Business:**

There was no old business for discussion.

### **New Business:**

The next council meeting will be held on January 17, 2024 @ 11:30 at the Clinton County Extension Office.

A motion was made by Matt Hornbostel with a second by Herb Williams to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.