



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**University of Illinois Extension
Logan, Menard, and Sangamon Counties
Extension Council & Board Meeting Agenda
March 21, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.
420 S. 7th St., Petersburg, IL 62675**

- **Call to Order** – Steve Holliday called the meeting to order at 7:27 pm.
- **Council Members & Staff Present:**
Steve Holliday, Danial Fulton, Kindall Helton, Dawn Wheat, Jady Wheat, and Terri Casey.
- **Previous Meeting Minutes**
Council members review the minutes from the January 2024 meeting. There were no changes or additions to the minutes, and they were filed as submitted.
- **Introductions of Members and Guests**
Those present took a moment to introduce themselves.
- **Open Meetings Act Training Requirement**
Casey explained that all Council members who have not already completed this training will need to do so ASAP. Once a member has completed the training, they should send Casey either a hard copy of their certificate of completion to the Extension office or send a digital copy to her via email. Information a link to the online training can be found here: <https://foiapac.ilag.gov/>
- **Financial/Fiscal Updates**

Casey is currently working on the FY2025 budget. The main focus is mitigation of the continued effects of inflation. As everyone is aware inflation remains a concern. The costs of goods and services are continuing to rise. It was determined that through the County Boards and their representatives on the council, the council will pursue an increase in the levy amount in all three counties equal to the official CPI increase of (3.4%), as allowed by law.

Annual Council Agreement: Casey reported that the unit had many donations this year. In order for these donations to qualify for the state matching funds these individual donations are grouped together into one agreement set forth under the Extension Council. This year the total amount of individual donations was \$17,421.74.

A motion to approve the Extension Council Agreement for FY2025 in the amount of \$17,421.74. was made by Steve Holliday and seconded by Daniel Fulton. The motion passed.

Casey reported that Menard County 4-H recently received generous financial support from a family who has historical ties to Menard 4-H. The gift will be used to further 4-H programming in Menard County along with supporting the Menard County 4-H Cloverbuds show scheduled for July 14. Casey added that they are extremely grateful for the generosity of those who support 4-H.

This year all three leases for our offices are up for renewal. Casey was pleased to report that all three were in the final stages and are down to just gathering signatures, with no major changes.

- **Program Updates**

Casey handed out staff program reports. She mentioned that 4-H has been very busy highlighting the six session Cloverbud program at New Salem Children's Center in Petersburg with 42 participants in grades K-2. The Menard County "Crime and Spy Funshop" with 30 participants including 12 Athens High School National Honor Society volunteers. This program was a collaboration with Menard County Sheriff Mark Oller, the Illinois State Police, and Menard County Farm Bureau. She also mentioned that 4-H now has programming at all Menard County School Districts and Menard 4-H will be hosting the county's first Cloverbud Show this year at the Menard County Fairgrounds. 4-H also hosted a Cooking 101 Program at Mt. Pulaski Elementary school and hosted a "Rabbit and Poultry Workshop" which included speakers Bill Bree and Windell Mildner, which allowed 4-H members to interact with live animals. The Logan County Foundation hosted a very successful Foundation Dinner and silent auction fundraiser to support Logan County 4-H programs. The "4-H Family Cooking Night" was hosted again with families joining via Zoom from their home kitchens to cook a meal with live step-by-step instructions. Two brand new programs were hosted including "Exploring Arts & Cultures" workshop and "4-H Leadership Adventure".

SNAP-Ed "OrganWise Guys" nutritional programming is being conducted in Northwest, Emden, Enos, Hazel Dell, Butler, Sanburg, McClernand, Jane Addams, Ridgley, Fairview, and Owen Marsh Elementary Schools. Almost 1,000 youth are being reached. "Eat Play Grow" curriculum has started at the Birth to Five Center, and budget recipes are being provided to Holy Family Food Pantry and the Salvation Army to accompany client's weekly food boxes.

Horticulture highlights include the "Introduction to Beekeeping" series which is concluding March 21 with 46 participants (30 in person, and 16 joining via Zoom). This year 8 youth also participated in the program. There were 6 participants in the Hybrid Master Gardener and Illinois Gardener training programs. Presented a 5-part "Growing Great Vegetable Garden" series to 226 participants via Zoom. Russel Allen Garden Day is coming up Saturday, March 23 at the Oasis Senior Center in Lincoln.

In commercial agriculture Extension hosted private pesticide applicator testing, presented at the Heartland Beef Alliance Cow/Calf Health program, "Youth Crop Scouting Competition" program, Scoular Company Grain Market Outlook presentation, and contributed to the Lincoln Daily News "Spring Ag Outlook" publication, in addition to providing technical assistance on issues related to Alfalfa, fertilizer usage and land valuation.

Casey also handed out a flyer about an upcoming "Anhydrous Ammonia Emergencies" program coming up on March 23 at 8 am until noon at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau office.

- **Staffing Update**

Casey gave a staffing update. She was pleased to announce that Reagen Tibbs started work as the new Unit Commercial Ag educator on January 3, 2024. Reagen is off to a great start and has already begun reaching out to and meeting with area stakeholders and producers.

She was also pleased to announce that Dr. Michelle Norberto-Whipple started work on January 16 as the Unit's new 4-H Youth Development Educator, Metro Springfield Area. Michelle is currently attending a training conference on campus and couldn't attend the meeting, but she is hoping to attend the next Council meeting in June in Springfield. Michelle has been very busy attending trainings, conferences, as well as meeting with area organizations to learn more about Springfield and to better assess community needs.

Casey also mentioned that they currently have two SNAP-Ed Community Worker vacancies in Sangamon County. One of the positions is currently open and applications will be accepted until April 4. The other position will be posted soon.

- **Reaching New Audiences/Meeting Community Need**

Casey mentioned that there is currently an additional open seat on the council, and she is seeking diverse voices to join our Extension Council, especially those who understand the needs of underserved audiences, as well as serving audiences most at risk and in need of our services in the metro Springfield area. She asked the council that if they know of someone who could represent these audiences and whose experience would be helpful, please reach out to her.

She then mentioned that the Unit will be participating in a civil rights review which occurs every three years. The purpose of this review is to determine that the proper reporting and programmatic documentation and data are in place and to demonstrate good faith efforts to reach underserved audiences, and document impact and successes.

Casey gave a program report to the council on the Illinois Extension system wide strategic planning process. This plan is being developed based on input from all aspects of Extension including both campus based and field staff, as well as external input, and relevant data. The process is moving along well and look for more updates to come in the future.

- **Set Future Meeting Dates**

The Third Thursday of January, March, June, and October.

Thursday, June 20, 2024 – 7 PM (Springfield, Sangamon County Extension Office)

Thursday, October 17, 2024 – 7 PM (Lincoln, Logan County Extension Office)

- **Public Input**

There was no public input.

- **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Kindall Helton and seconded by Jady Wheat to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.