



**Extension Board Meeting
DeKalb County 4-H General Projects Show
Farm Bureau Bldg., 1350 W Prairie Drive, Sycamore IL
Thursday, July 11, 2024, 10:00 AM**

MINUTES

1. Introductions: Patrick Deutsch, DeKalb County Board member, Heather Coyle, Mike Delany, and Teresa Schwarz were present.
2. 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.
3. 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. Introduced Patrick Deutsch to the new 4-H New Audiences Educator, Abigail Nelson, and one of the 4-H New Audiences Program Coordinator, Katie Williamson.
4. 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. The Hometown Leaders program that took place in DeKalb County was a topic of conversation and getting more youth involved in civic engagement opportunities. Water sustainability and resources in DeKalb County was discussed and the Paddle and Learn program, where Extension is training the educators on water and watershed curriculum in their classroom. Heather also informed Patrick that there are funds coming from the state for an agriculture educator in every unit. She asked Patrick to think about what specialization for this educator would fill the biggest gap? She stated that both soils and agribusness have been the top two areas of specialization that have come up.

5. Lunch, Adjourned at 12:20 PM

DeKalb County Schedule

Thursday, July 11 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Project Judging

Friday, July 12, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Public viewing

Monday, July 15, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Project Pick-up

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.