



**Extension Board Meeting**  
**Buchanan Street Community Gardens, Belvidere IL**  
**Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 10:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

1. Introduction: Present: Boone County Board member, Tom Walberg, Heather Coyle, Mike Delany, and Judy Hodge, Extension Program Coordinator.
2. County Needs Discussion: Coyle shared the possibility for a state-funded Ag educator. The group discussed Boone county’s agricultural needs and which Ag specialization is most needed. While Tom noted that Boone couldn’t have another Wally Reynolds (past Ag agent) because much of that advisory role is not done by vendors, the county still needs someone who can direct inquires - In essence, Walberg was saying that the county needs someone with the Ag-business knowledge Reynolds brought to his work. Walberg noted that the county farmers don't need a crop advisor per se, as there are plenty of organizations both in the private sector and public sector that cover this need. In fact, the need for advice is stronger on the business side of farming, which is more important than “identifying bugs.” Walberg noted, however, that this hire should certainly come from an Ag background, primarily for credibility with constituents. Walberg noted the Boone County Board decision to contribute funding in the amount of almost \$500,000 to a 3D water initiative from University of Illinois. Walberg referenced the mantra - Protect, conserve, and recharge – as elements of good water-related policy. He noted that DanKane has been hired out of retirement by Boone County. Walberg floated the idea of collaborating with Extension to create a “Water Authority of Boone County.”
3. Judy Hodge spoke about the work of the Boone County Master Gardeners and the Boone County Master Watershed Steward Program.
4. Budget materials were shared and the levy amount of \$130K was identified by Coyle as this year’s request. No change in the request from last year, down from prior years.
  - a. Financial Statement
  - b. Rationale
  - c. Impact Report
  - d. County Funding Request
5. Meeting adjourned around 11:00 am.

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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.