



Extension Council Meeting Minutes

Time and Place: A meeting of the Extension Council Board was held on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at the Coles County Extension Office.

Participants: The following members were in attendance: Dustin Hay, Kelly Barringer, Gary Gergeni, Janet Blade, Scott Seegmiller, Travis Phelps, and Jessie McClusky, County Director.

Also in attendance were Morgan Jones, Marketing Coordinator and Cheri Burcham, Family Life Educator.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm and a quorum of the Board was present. Dustin Hay called the meeting to order, and Jessie McClusky kept the minutes of the meeting.

Approval of March 7, 2024 minutes: The March 7, 2024 minutes are accepted as true and correct with the following amendment:

Page 3, under "Fiscal" – add the following clarifying statements:

Add Melaina Kincaid to the Cumberland County bank account at First Neighbor Bank.

Add Rachel Stenger to the Moultrie-Douglas County bank account at the State Bank of Arthur.

Moved: Kelly Barringer

Seconded: Scott Seegmiller

Motion carried

Program Spotlight:

- Cheri Burcham, Family Life Educator, provided an overview of the various programs available, including mental health and brain health programs. Plus, Cheri led an activity for the members to participate in to receive hands-on experience.

Committee Reports:

- Programs
 - Organizations Extension should consider partnering with:
 - Lake Land College, WIOA, EIU
 - Possible programs to consider:
 - Small business programs (business plan, insurance, etc.); How to talk to teens
 - Marketing
 - Increase marketing
 - Consider sending mailers promoting programs (include a visual calendar)
 - Attend community events
- Marketing



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- Morgan Jones gave an update on the projects she has been working on which include social media plan, photo bank, updating the monthly newsletter to a quarterly piece, and improving and updating the website.
- Discussed partnerships and how to tap into them and SPIN clubs.
- Membership
 - New Council year is December-November
 - County Board Appointments: If appointed by the County Board and the individual agrees to the membership responsibility (signs the agreement form), they count towards the quorum.
 - The Board agreed to extend invitations to join the Council for two two-year terms starting in January 2025 to:
 - Elizabeth Mitsdarffer (Douglas County)
 - Erik Stollard (Moultrie County)
- Financial
 - Jessie McClusky, County Director, shared that she is in the early stages of a year-long funding campaign. Despite funding from Federal and county Boards and individuals, it is not enough to cover the increasing cost of conducting Extension work/programs.
 - Additional funding will:
 - Provide financial sustainability and diversify funding sources
 - Assist with expanding 4-H Youth Development
 - Increase the scope and frequency of our health and wellness programs, addressing critical needs such as mental health and chronic disease prevention.
 - Enhance our programs by incorporating more cutting-edge technologies and practices.
 - More information about the plan, messaging, etc. will be shared at the next meeting.

Old Business:

- Slate of Members (January 2025-December 2027)
 - Board agreed to extend invitations to join the Council Board for two two-year terms starting in January 2025 to:
 - Elizabeth Mitsdarffer (Douglas County)
 - Erik Stollard (Moultrie County)

New Business:

- Extension updates:
 - Discussed fair dates
 - Share accomplishments:
 - ROE#11 presentation and request for signature programs
 - Master Gardeners graduation and 30 year anniversary of the program



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- Partners in Produce piloting a new process for delivery with some pantries coming to the auction and picking up produce.
- Deer Donation program won 1st place as a National winner of the NEAFCS
- IL Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network Team won the 2024 Team Award.
- Staff
 - SNAP-Ed opening(s) coming this fall.
 - Held a Team Wellness Day on May 29 at Allerton Park with an educational tour of the mansion and a garden walk with a Master Gardener and Coordinator. The team spent time together out in nature.
- Scott, Gary, and Travis received the book, “The Nature Fix” for all having 100% attendance this council year.

Executive Session: NONE

Public Comments: NONE

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Scott Seegmiller, and Janet Blade seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

NEXT MEETING: September 5, 2024