



**University of Illinois Extension – Bureau, La Salle, Marshall, and Putnam  
Multi County Unit Council Meeting Minutes, September 17, 2024, 5:30 p.m.  
Illinois Valley Community College, CTC 124**

The September 17, 2024 meeting of the Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Extension Unit Council was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairperson Monico Nunez. Monico Nunez welcomed everyone. Roll Call was taken.

**Attendance:**

Council Members Present: Monico Nunez, Francis Morse, Douglas Stockley, Elmer Walter, Debbie Buffington, Steve Tuftie, Arratta Znaniecki, Kathryn Erjavsek, Willard Mott, and Brad Lindstrom.  
Staff Present: County Director Erin Orwig, SNAP-Ed Educator Patrobas Wafula, SNAP-Ed EPC Jani Kidd

**Minutes for June 4, 2024:**

- Francis Morse moved to accept the March 26 minutes as written. Debbie Buffington 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

- Francis Morse presented the In and Out Account Reports and Banner Reports. The In and Out Account Reports were approved as presented. Motion to approve by Arratta Znaniecki and second by Steven Tuftie. Motion carried.

**Growing Together Illinois Grant:**

- Jani Kidd and Patrobas Wafula presented a review of the Growing Together Illinois grant. The grant has provided resources for the community garden at Northwest Elementary in LaSalle. It had a multi-program approach with 4H and Master Gardeners conducting a Seeds to Harvest program in April and May. At the end of the program students ate salads with the produce they grew. Then the community garden was planted with school volunteers. There were four harvest dates throughout the summer with third graders and their families assisting. Approximately 90 pounds of produce was offered at the Back-to-School night which was the last harvest date. The total amount of produce harvested this summer was 392 pounds, exceeding the 200-pound goal. There is an opportunity to extend the grant for two more years. One of the goals is to help create sustainability of the garden since the school volunteers are getting older, both have helped with the garden for 30 years.

**Organizational Reports**

- **Program Reports:** Quarterly newsletter link was emailed. (reported by Erin Orwig)
  - 4-H & Youth Development Educator.
  - Ag in the Classroom, Katharine Girone.
  - Nutrition & Wellness Program Educator, Susan Glassman.

- Illinois Nutrition Education/SNAP-Ed Educator, Patrobas Wafula.
- Commercial Agriculture Educator, Emily Hansen.
- **Outreach Efforts:** (reported by Erin Orwig). Erin Orwig
  - SNAP-Ed and Nutrition and Wellness are becoming very involved in programming in Mendota. Mendota has a very active community organization that is pushing for improvements and activities for its community. Jani Kidd is working with its Walkability Committee to improve sidewalks and walking paths throughout the town. SNAP-Ed is anticipating conducting an IJC there next year. Susan Glassman held cooking classes at a community room in once was an assisted living facility.

**Old Business:**

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**New Business:**

- Ashley Baron started July 2 as the Office Support Associate in Ottawa.
- Youth Development Educator interviews are being conducted. Erin is hopeful that it will be filled by November 1.
- Unit 8 is part of a grant through the USDA Rural Health and Safety Education to help promote Wits Workout in our area. Molly Hofer is looking for a bilingual community member from LaSalle County to participate on a panel once a month for 10 months starting in November or December. There is a \$1000 stipend for participating.

**Other Items/Announcements:**

- The Council year is being shifted to January 1-December 31. Forms are being updated by the Regional office. The election in November may cause county committee appointments to change, so our MCUC will hold elections and appoint any new members at the December meeting.
- Meeting dates for 2024-2025, all meetings held at 5:30pm:
  - December 17, 2024
  - March 18, 2025
  - June 17, 2025
  - September 23, 2025
- Please submit Open Meeting Act certificates to Erin.

**The next meeting date:**

- December 17, 2024 at 5:30 PM. Location; IVCC room CTC 124.

Francis Morse moved to adjourn the meeting and Brad Lindstrom 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathryn Erjavsek