



Extension Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Extension serving Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties - Unit 2

Tuesday, September 24, 2024—6:00 p.m.

Timber Pointe Golf Club, 5750 Woodstock Rd, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Present: Extension Board Members: Patrick Deutsch and Tom Walberg; **Advisory Council Members:** Luis Gonzalez, Mark Schuth, Candie Fore, Sarah Hackbarth, Abigail Hesslau, Barb Wych, Jeff Woodyatt, Jane Zeien, Noe Escamilla, Dori DeLaCruz, and Amy Hildebrant; **Staff:** Bruce Black, Heather Coyle, Mike Delany, Peggy Anesi, Connie Handel, Judy Hodge, and Teresa Schwarz.

This meeting convened at 6:10 PM. County Director Heather Coyle welcomed everyone and said that we are here to connect with other advisory committees, get the big picture of the work of Extension, welcome new members, and thank members with expiring terms. She said we would start with dinner, sit next to someone you don't know and who is on a different committee, and introduce yourself.

Teresa Schwarz announced new Extension Advisory Council members. She explained that they received a welcome folder before the meeting: Abigail Hesslau and members not present were Dan Dietrich (not present), Stephanie Meyers (not present), Abigail Hesslau, Jennifer Robinson (not present), Tina Holtz, and Jennifer Mora (not present). Schwarz also announced the members with expired terms, choosing not to serve a 2nd term or terms that ended due to restructuring the Expansion and Review committee, now called 4-H and Youth. Each person received a thank-you gift. Adult members coming off the Advisory Council are not present are Rylie Loucks-Kues- Health and Local Foods committee; Jael Monteagudo, Amy Hildebrant, Gina DelRose, Pat Alexander, Desiree Corral, Joe Dombek, Jody Hayes, Bode Martin, and Jeannette Mingus- Expansion and Review. For individuals not present, staff on their committee will distribute the gifts.

Coyle provided notification of the Illinois Open Meetings Act and the EEO Program Notification plan and noted that links were provided via email. She said the Illinois Open Meeting Act training needs to be completed once in a lifetime. She stated that if you have already completed it, you should let Teresa S. know or take the training at your earliest convenience and send the completion certificate to Teresa S. so it can be on file. Coyle pointed out some of the contents in the folder that each member received, including the unit's 2023 impact report, the programming report for 2023, and flyers for upcoming programming within the unit.

Coyle gave an update on staffing for the unit.

Notification of Unit 2 Signatories: *Heather Coyle, Johnna Jennings, Jodi Baumgartner, and Melinda Colbert for FNB checking account (Boone & DeKalb). And Heather Coyle, Johnna Jennings, Jodi Baumgartner, Melinda Colbert, and Judy Hodge for the Harvard checking account (Ogle).*

Coyle turned the floor over to Barb Wych, Chair, and she headed the business portion of the meeting. She said everyone received last year's meeting minutes and read them for errors. **Noe Escamilla motioned to approve the minutes; Luis Gonzalez made a second motion. The Council voted to approve the minutes.**

Chair called for committee reports:

Health & Local Foods: Judy Hodge reported on the programming suggestions made by the advisory council and how Extension put those suggestions into action this past year in all three counties. *See attachment A.* Details on SNAP-Ed programs were limited because of the SNAP-Ed Educator position vacancy.

Community and Economic Development: Mike Delany spoke about the programming they have been working on, including the upcoming Poverty Simulations, My Hometown is Cool, and Real World: Life in Action. *See attachment B.*

Ag and Natural Resources: Peggy Doty and committee member Jeff Woodyatt spoke about the watershed project and how decisions made by all communities in the watershed impact the region. The focus of her committee was water education, which would consist of a series of programs through Extension. She and Judy Hodge held a teacher training called Paddle and Learn, where teachers in northern Illinois spent a week learning how to teach their students about water and their local watersheds. They also did a Master Watershed Stewardship program, educating local community leaders about local watersheds. *See attachment C.*

4-H & Youth: Due to the 4-H All Fall meeting for 4-H staff on campus, there were no unit educators or program coordinators at the meeting. Committee member Noe Escamilla provided the report. *See attachment D.*

Coyle mentioned that it is a strategic planning year for Extension and that committees will review elements of the new strategic plan in the upcoming year. Extension is a trusted agent helping communities. Coyle discussed how State Matching funds can increase the value of local contributions. Each year, the University of Illinois Director of Extension requests the Illinois General Assembly for State Matching Funds based on contributions from the local county board and partner agreements. Historically, 65% of local dollars have been matched.

Chair Barb Wych continued the meeting with the election of the 2024-2025 officers, asking for volunteers willing to serve. Motion to elect new officers, there was a seconded motion. Motion carried.

CHAIR – Conduct the annual business portion of the meeting and sign council documents.

Barb Wych, Boone County

VICE-CHAIR – Conduct the annual meeting in the chair's absence.

Dori DeLaCruz, DeKalb County

SECRETARY – Take minutes at the annual meeting and review minutes before distribution.

Luis Gonzalez, Boone County

Noe Escamilla motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dori DeLaCruz made a second motion. The Council voted to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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.

Health and Local Foods Advisory Committee 2024 Update

Programming suggestions and how Extension responded.

Committee Suggestion: Utilize the Chamber of Commerce as a source for advertising programs that are coming up as well as local Facebook pages such as What’s Happening....

Extension Response:

Boone County office has started advertising more on the Belvidere Chamber events page as well as sending out information about bigger events to the Chamber to send out to their contact list when they advertise other programs coming up. As well as promoting programs on What’s Happening Belvidere.

DeKalb County office has not made as good of use of the DeKalb Chamber as they could. This is a goal we have going forward. The Master Gardener program consistently promotes upcoming programs on What’s Happening DeKalb and Sycamore.

Ogle County office regularly promotes programs through the Oregon Chamber of Commerce and What’s Happening.

Public Response: Nothing to share at this time. Can’t say if it’s making an impact yet.

Committee Suggestion: Programming in parts of our counties that aren’t traditionally targeted.

Extension Response: Work is needed on this.

Boone County could look into reaching out to Capron, Poplar Grove and Garden Prairie.

DeKalb County could look into reaching out to more communities in the southern half of the county. Hinckley, Waterman and Shabbona would be good places to start. In the southeastern tip of the county, the city of Sandwich lies in both DeKalb and Kendall Counties. Since the Kendall County Extension office is much closer to them, they tend to reach out to that office.

Ogle County could look into reaching out to communities in the western part of the county (Polo and Forreston).

Public Response: Nothing to report.

Committee Suggestion: Offer some sort of program that touches on hoarding and clearing out clutter in homes.

Extension Response:

Ogle County Kara offered the *Where to Start: Decluttering Home and Finances* program at the Hub City Senior Center.

Public Response: Roughly 15 people were in attendance.

Community Request and Need

Canning and Preserving Programs

A.

Continued work in our counties

Local Foods

Boone County (Judy Hodge)

Community Gardens

Buchanan Street Garden – *this garden is a partnership with the Juntos 4-H Club and MGs.*

NASR Community Garden – *This garden is with the MGs and individuals with a disability-related special need.*

MG State Award Winners

Team Award for providing 25 speakers bureau presentations for the community.

Outstanding MG awarded to an individual who went above and beyond providing programming for youth and adults in the community.

Boone County Farm Stroll – Sunday, October 6, 2024 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Poverty Simulation with Rock Valley College and Boone County Hunger Coalition took place in February. Another one has been planned for November with the Youth Services Network.

Boone County Hunger Coalition

As members we work together with other organizations to address hunger issues that are currently taking place in our community. We discuss things such as community gardens, food pantry needs, health concerns, and food insecurity.

DeKalb County (Connie Handel)

Food Donation Gardens

DeKalb County History Center (Engh Farm) Garden – *OSCAR program (Out of School Care) at Sycamore Community School District brings elementary aged children to the garden for weekly programs during the summer. Produce is donated to the Salvation Army Food Pantry in DeKalb.*

St. Paul's Donation Garden – *has been renamed the Rick Johns Memorial Community Gardens and is a partnership between MGs and Northern Illinois University. This garden received funding from a Know More, Grow More mini grant this year. The funds are helping to foster technology projects at the garden, including installing seven moisture sensors connected to a solar weather station in collaboration with NIU's Environmental Technology Department, a solar irrigation system to conserve water, and a self-watering greenhouse. NIU students will be managing these systems as a part of their internships through Environmental Studies programs. Student gardeners will be learning more about regenerative horticulture and climate responsive garden management through these projects.*

Gardener's Pathway

Annual gardening workshop with a keynote speaker and several breakout sessions, hosted by Master Gardeners.

Garden Walk

July 13, 2024 – Annual event hosted by Master Gardeners. Includes homes with not only beautiful flower gardens, but also interesting or innovative vegetable gardens. Also includes an educational spotlight garden each year.

Ogle County (Connie Handel)Seed Library at Flagg-Rochelle Public Library

- A kick-off event was held on Saturday, January 27, 2024
- Monthly presentations are being offered to the public throughout the year by MGs. Coming up are Veggie Seed Saving in September, Cover Crops and Fall Garden Cleanup in October, and Native Seed Saving in November.
- MGs shared a table at the Cypress House Market with staff from the library to promote the seed library on the last Saturday of each month this summer.

Rochelle Green Thumbs 4-H Club

- A new 4-H Club was started at the Flagg-Rochelle Library this year. This special interest club was focused on gardening. Master Gardeners led educational activities each month and helped the 4-Hers start seeds, plant and maintain raised bed gardens, and harvest produce to enter in the Ogle County 4-H Fair.

Ready, Set, Grow!

- Annual half-day event; presentations on garden topics; cooperative event between Carrol, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside counties

Florissa summer camp – Fairy Gardens

- MGs led an activity on fairy gardens for campers

Ogle County Farm Stroll

- Sunday, October 13, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Looking for MG and MN volunteers to help with an interactive, educational family activity at a couple of the farms on the walk.

Bruce Black – Horticulture Educator

Homegrown Healthy - Bruce Black and Jan Saglier, started this new program as a part of the CDC ACTION Grant through the Ogle County Health Department. The Oregon Library was a host site to weekly meetings with participants in the gardens. Bruce taught participants about growing, harvesting and what to do with it when ready to be eaten. Jan taught nutrition lessons around what was growing in the garden or what can be found at local farmer's markets. Targeted audience was low-income.

Family Life (Kara Schweitzer)Healthy Living & Healthy Aging Programs:

- Don't Go It Alone - Improving Your Social Connections- Identify differences between social isolation and loneliness, risk factors for each, and strategies for and health benefits of staying connected with others.
 - Boone County: Boone County Extension Meeting Room
- Navigating Change as We Age- Strategies for navigating physical, mental, financial changes commonly encountered in older adulthood and developing a growth mindset.
 - Ogle County: Hub City Senior Center, Lincoln Manor, Rock River Center
- Where to Start: Decluttering Home & Finances- Identify reasons for clutter, benefits of decluttering, specific strategies for decluttering.
 - Ogle County: Hub City Senior Center, Rock River Center

A.

Brain Health Programs:

- Head Strong- Lifestyle factors that contribute to brain health and strategies to enhance thinking.
 - o Boone County: Boone County Retired Teachers
- Wits Fitness- Ongoing monthly brain health classes targeting two important elements of brain health: intellectual challenge and social connections. The program features interactive paper and pencil brain teaser challenges and education/discussion regarding brain health contributors and healthy lifestyle choices.
 - o Ogle County: Hub City Senior Center, Rock River Center

SNAP Education

Boone County (Jan Saglier)

Youth Programming

Perry School – Hydroponic gardening lessons

Perry School – Organwise Guys and Serving Up MyPlate

Washington Elementary - Organwise Guys and Serving Up MyPlate

Jan has since taken on an EPC role with the Unit.

New SNAP Community Worker: Stevie Momaly, will be covering SNAP programs in Boone County.

DeKalb/Ogle Counties (Brienne Gugerty)

Oregon Elementary School

OrganWise Guys

Eat Play Grow

Lincoln Elementary School (Rochelle)

OrganWise Guys

Two Rivers Head Start (DeKalb)

Eat Play Grow

Eat Move Save is offered at various pantries in Ogle and DeKalb County when schedule allows. Healthy Cents is offered at Countryside Village when schedule allows.

**Illinois Extension Boone/DeKalb/Ogle
CED Advisory Council**

1. Review of the current activities of CED in our 3-county area.

Career- and Workforce Readiness programming:

- * Real World/Life In Action
 - Sycamore (10/21)
 - Forreston HS (12/6)
- * Work/Ready - DeKalb HS, KEC, RAMP
 - Dress 4 Success
 - Accountability
 - Time Mgmt
 - Social Media
 - Real World Banking
 - Interviewing Skills
 - Pitch lesson
 - Digital Citizenship

Civic Engagement/Pipeline:

- * Hometown Leaders
 - Intro to County Govt – DeKalb
 - County Board meeting visit - DeKalb
 - County Government visit day - DeKalb

Faculty connection:

- * Mark White, PhD meeting w/Ogle County EDO

Statewide programming with local impact:

- * Moderate IRS webinar (11/2)
- * Moderate State Legis Update webinar (1/10)

Poverty Simulations:

- * Faith In Action Poverty Simulation (10/25)
- * Boone County Hunger Coalition Poverty Simulation at RVC (2/23)

Opportunity Equity Forum:

- * OEF event in Belvidere (10/26)
- * OEF event in Rockford (5/15)

Expert Advice:

- * Brian Carr re: SBDC support for ag tech business (10/17)

2. Discussion of suggestions related to the My Hometown Is Cool program and possibilities for fundraising sourcing to support student projects.

3. Strategies for getting local civic- and business leaders to participate in Poverty Simulation exercises.

C

Annual Advisory Committee Report on Projects 2023-2024

Three major projects

Project 1

Watershed for Leaders program

Based on an assessed need in Boone County Master Watershed Steward program with Purdue was requested for Illinois in 2022.

By spring of 2024 it was still not complete.

While waiting for the curriculum rewrite, a second need became clear in Boone. The leadership did not have a firm understanding of watersheds and stormwater issues while water insecurities were looming as well as poor development practices were still being implemented.

The county engineer reported that Boone received a poor mark on the counties lack of education around stormwater.

Judy Hodge and I, then committed to creating a brand-new program for Boone County leaders including municipalities, highway department, village leaders, county board members, the county administrator and more. Watershed Stewardship for Leaders was created. We built a committee of leaders including the engineer, city of Belvidere planner, health department and the conservation district and met monthly.

The Watershed Stewardship for Leaders was created. It was a 4-part series offered once a month, over a long lunch time frame from November through February. We had an average of thirty-two participants at each session.

Program costs were covered by a local grant and lunches were provided by environmental engineering firms.

@ Jeff gives his impression of the program, it is value or need going forward, and any personal insight.

Outcomes

Salt truck calibrations

August 15th the board passed \$491,917.00 groundwater mapping plan for Boone – I asked if it could be followed back to our WSL program and the answer was yes.

DeKalb would like to run the program in the coming year.

Project 2

Paddle & Learn – a teacher workshop

We received a second-year grant from the Wheaton Franciscans, and we included a train-the-trainer teacher workshop Heather entitled, 'Paddle & Learn.'

We offered a one-week program as follows:

Monday – Rocktown Adventures certified all the teachers attending in kayaks.

Tuesday through Thursday they spent the days at the NREC learning all things watershed including hydrology, soils, bio-indicators, rainfall management, watershed planning, best management practices, etc.

Friday – all participants met in Rockford for a 2.5-hour paddle down the Rock River where we were able to see what we learned all week. They were able to talk about the river from the perspective of watershed management and they could point out good and bad management practices.

Jeff's input about training teachers in this way and his experience while with them.

Outcomes

Teacher quote from Tuesday: "Peggy I have to tell you that until yesterday I did not know what a watershed was or that I lived in one."

Science teacher when getting out of the river. "Well, it looks like I will be rewriting my science curriculum this summer." I asked for an example. And she shared she would be changing mud slides in California to the positive potential of using cover crops here to hold soil in place as part of her changes.

The Wheaton Franciscans have chosen us unanimously to continue our water education so we will be able to offer Paddle & Learn again next year and this and more in coming years around water.

Project 3

Master Watershed Steward program

Follow up meetings with our WLS committee resulted in offering the finished Master Watershed Stewards program.

We are offering it, as requested in Boone, and it is currently going on.

This is an eight-session program, and we are the first to pilot it in the state.

We have a county board member and a village leader from the WSL course who wanted to continue learning more.

The course has three more sessions. We are making major changes to the actual pilot and will be offering these changes to the statewide team as a suggestion for future programming.

@Jeff share your thoughts on the program now and going forward in DeKalb and Ogle.

Outcomes

Though we will not know the outcomes until the course is over, the feedback in person and emails has been positive. The group is very engaged, and we tend to go a little overtime due to the number of questions and interest in the topics.

4-H Youth Committee Advisory Committee 2024 Update

- **Committee work**
 - Adults concentrating on new Partnership possibilities/opportunities
 - Youth concentrating on developing a usable survey for youth involved in 4-H
- **Unit (as well as regional) programs being developed and implemented**
 - Regional – Developed and hosted a Volunteer Leader training on Saturday, September 21 (over 100 volunteers signed up to attend the full-day training)
 - Regional - Homeschool Coop 4-H Opportunities
 - Unit 2 - All 3 counties hosted successful 4-H fairs.
 - Unit 2 – Our new 4-H year began September 1.
 - Unit 2– Real World, Life In Action, Saturday, November 9 at Kishwaukee Education Consortium (KEC)
 - Unit 2 – Hometown Leaders: Recruiting our Future, Program on County Government Includes 3 parts
 - 1. Classroom session on local government
 - 2. Visit to a County Board Meeting
 - 3. All-day tour of County Government, including career opportunities
 - Unit 2 – My Hometown is Cool (Received grant to work with youth to develop and implement a plan for their community)
 - Unit 2 – Classroom visits to present Work Ready Curriculum
 - Unit 2 - **Traditional 4-H programming continues to thrive.**

