



Unit 14 Extension Council

September 18, 2024

Minutes

5:30 pm

- Call to Order – Chairman, Barb Casady called the meeting to order.
Present: Dave Ferrill, Nicole Schaffnit, Brandy Kirby, Courtney Kirby, Patsy Davis, Amy Whelan, Barb Casady
Staff: Kristin Huls, Amy Lefringhouse, Shelby Crow, Siera Duesterhaus, Jennifer Shelts
- Council Member Welcome & Introductions – members and staff introduced themselves to the group with name and county represented
- Financial Presentation by Associate Director of Extension, Harry Clore – Harry Clore joined via Zoom to provide those present with a detailed overview of Extension funding. He explained in detail types of funds, funding streams and shared breakdown by percentage of all funding and expenses for Illinois Extension. Following his presentation, he offered open Q&A.
- Illinois Extension Updates
 - Program Updates
 - Amy Lefringhouse provided NREE updates. She talked about the Everyday Environment Series she is involved with along with colleagues across the state and provided stickers for council members. She reported that 8 recently graduated from Master Naturalist training. Master Naturalists have been working on a Tree Inventory for the City of Quincy as requested by the City. This is of great dollar value savings to the City of Quincy. Amy worked in tandem with Bryan Schullian for Extension to host Section 11 Forestry at South Park. This was a great way to provide a high-quality contest for FFA members around the area. Amy has started fall semester with her Natural Resource Management Courses she teaches at JWCC.
 - Kristin, Jennifer and Siera all provided 4-H Youth Development updates to the group. Upcoming 4-H events and activities include National 4-H week. There are a number of programs and activities planned throughout the unit. Achievement dates have all been set for the county programs in addition to fall 4-H leaders meetings that are being held. The 4-H newsletter has been well received and will continue to be sent throughout the upcoming 4-H year. Council members are on

the mailing list to receive this printed newsletter. Staff are planning a 4-H event on January 3 – more details will be shared. School programming such as Youth Leadership and Welcome to the Real World are already underway.

- Shelby shared updates for programming for staff not present. Ag in the Classroom coordinators are both well underway with fall classroom lessons in Hancock and Adams county. We now have two full-time SNAP-Ed staff providing programming in Hancock, Schuyler and Pike counties. Plans are underway for Annie’s Project and Western Illinois Leadership Academy to begin in January/February 2025.
- Staff Updates – there is currently one open search, the Adams county SNAP-Ed Community Outreach Worker position. This is an active search with hopes to fill it this fall.
- Civil Rights
 - Training Requests for Council Members – per the conversation with council members, Shelby will provide opportunities for council members to be trained in Real Colors at the next council meeting.
 - Community Resources for staff – Shelby requested that as council members learn of county resources to share with Extension staff for programming that serves new audiences.
- Open Meetings Act Training – all members present have completed the training.
- Other – the Extension Council year is shifting to January 1 – December 31. All current terms will adjust to re-align to the shift. Shelby is currently working on council member recruitment for new members to join in January 2025.
- Next meeting date and location - next meeting will be held mid-January. Shelby will work with council members to set a date after January 1.
- Adjourn – meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.