



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Serving Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties

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University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting

Monday, February 7, 2022, 6:00 pm

Via Zoom

Present: Garnet Fee, Sue Gallant, Becky Gocken, Brenda Heimann, Sheila Keene, Codie Koester, Margaret Larson, Deborah Lischwe, Ray Massingill, Angela Miller, Tom Scheider, Chris Urish

Chris Urish called the meeting to order. She asked for a motion of approve the minutes of the previous meeting (October 11, 2021). Garnet moved and Ray seconded a motion to approve those minutes. The motion carried.

Margaret welcomed the 4-H program coordinators from the three counties: Becky (Winnebago), Brenda (Stephenson) and Angela (Jo Daviess). Each of them outlined their recent activities. While they acknowledged the effects of Covid on day-to-day operations and in-person events, they have been able to offer a remarkable host of activities and, given state guidance, have initiated new signature programming (water quality, Jo Daviess; forestry, Stephenson), identified a focus for planning, brought back popular clubs (bass fishing, Winnebago; Super Saturday, Stephenson) and offered new ones (art at Juvenile Detention Center, Winnebago). Upcoming plans for summer include day camps, babysitting clinics and other topic-specific programs. The coordinators also spoke about collaborating with each other and other local organizations.

Margaret addressed staff changes including the search for a youth educator, office support person in Jo Daviess, three open SNAP positions in Winnebago and a possible fully funded horticultural position. She stated that local and state funding levels are stable with county governments continuing to support Extension services. Program updates include nutrition and wellness through Diane Reinhold offering in-person certified food management training in each county, in-person certified livestock management and agronomy programs through Phillip Alberti and Jay Solomon, vegetable and fruit workshops by Grant McCarty. Margaret commended the staff for their flexibility and willingness to adapt to changing conditions given Covid restrictions.

For the next Council meeting (summer), Chris proposed that we meet at the 4-H shows at each of the three county fairs. Garnet moved and Sheila seconded this motion. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Lischwe

University of Illinois Extension

College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

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