



University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting  
Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 6:00 pm

Present (in person and by Skype): Council members -- Sue Gallant, Sheila Keene, Codie Koester, Deborah Lischwe, Ray Massingill, Ann Somers, Ethan Trampel, Chris Urish, Lori Walsh. Staff -- Margaret Larson, Kelly Lafferty, Jay Solomon.

Chair Chris Urish called the meeting to order. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (February 6, 2022). Lori moved and Sue seconded a motion to approve those minutes. The motion carried. Council members introduced themselves and new members were welcomed.

Council members who attended the 4-H events at the three county fairs this summer shared their impressions. Each fair was attended by at least one council member from the county they represent. They made positive comments about the activities and facilities/buildings where events took place. They also noted that participation seemed to be lower than pre-pandemic years.

Election of officers -- Since the past two years have been unusual given pandemic protocols, Margaret asked that Council members and officers who have served for the past term continue their appointments. Therefore, Chris will remain as chairperson, Sue as vice chair and Deborah will fill the open position of secretary. They agreed to serve as asked.

On August 30, 2022, Unit 1 held a Research Field Day. In addition to all Unit 1 staff, Council members were invited to attend. Staff presented updates on local agricultural research projects (field trials) and Dr. Steven Worth from South Africa talked about Extension-like experiences in his country. Council members Ray, Ann and Deborah said they were impressed with what they learned at this event.

Recently hired, Kelly Lafferty, Youth Development and 4-H Educator spoke about her education and work experience in Illinois and Louisiana. She mentioned her upcoming participation in the Keepers of the Land at Oakdale Nature Preserve on 9/27. She also described her interest in promoting mindfulness and meditation, saying she feels this is useful for youth in handling stress and anxiety. Discussion followed about ways to approach and promote this; there is wariness among local populations about activities like yoga that are connected to non-traditional practices.

Program planning and work by Extension staff has seen some changes as some partner organizations are not as willing to participate. Jay mentioned community interest is renewable energy.

Margaret presented the Unit 1 budget for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. Finances are more stable now than in the past. She attributes this to the benefits of statewide reorganization with more support for educators and staff. In terms of staff updates, Margaret saying that Unit 1 has 4 open positions, a Metro Educator and 3 in SNAP (nutrition education).

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for the week of November 28 with 3 in-person meetings held concurrently, one per county, and then joined together as a whole via Skype.

Ray moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 with Ethan seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Lischwe

**University of Illinois Extension**

College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

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