



University of Illinois Unit 1 Extension Council Meeting  
Monday, November 27, 2023, 6:00 pm

Present: Council members (Stephenson County only) -- Deborah Lischwe, Tom Scheider, Kevyn-Ann Sutter, Ethan Trampel, Chris Urish. Staff – Nikki Keltner, Deb Koch, Kelly Lafferty, Grant McCarty, Diane Rienhold.

*Each county group of Council members and staff met in their respective counties and were joined together by Zoom for business, review and updates.*

Chair Chris Urish called the meeting to order and asked members and staff to introduce themselves. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting (4/24/2023). Ann Somers moved and Sue Gallant seconded a motion to approve those minutes. The motion passed.

It was noted that Council members attended the 4-H exhibits held at the three county fairs held over the summer in lieu of a formal Council meeting. Council members who attended those events shared their experience. They were impressed by the variety and caliber of the projects. Attendance and participation at the fairs surpassed the previous year.

General Unit and Staff Updates as presented by Margaret Larson -

- Carol Erickson retires at the end of 2023. Three new staff members will come on board (agriculture educator, community educators).
- The fiscal situation is “amazing” as the State funnels funds promptly now and counties provide good financial support.
- The State Extension office has hired an outside consultant for strategic planning which was last done in 2012. A survey conducted over the past summer had good participation from Unit 1.
- Council members who have not yet completed the Open Meetings Act training are asked to do so.

Margaret invited Council members to attend programs and events held by the Extension. Updates are provided on the website.

Council meetings occur quarterly with the next anticipated in-person meeting to be in March/April 2024. If business decisions are needed before that, a Zoom session will be held.

The three-county meeting ended. The remainder of the meeting featured staff members at each county who described their current duties and responsibilities including recent, ongoing, and anticipated programs they have or will present. I was present for the Stephenson County group. The list of offerings is impressive in its scope and breadth.

At the conclusion of the staff remarks, Kevyn-Ann moved and Ethan seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting ended at 7:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Lischwe

**University of Illinois Extension**

College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

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