



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**University of Illinois Extension
Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington Counties
Unit 23**

Multi-County Council Minutes
April 17, 2024; 11:30 am
@ Clinton County Extension Office

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Sam Phillips at 11:34 a.m.

Roll Call:

Council members present answering to roll call included: Julie Brooks, Mike Bruns, Julie Karneier, Galen Mahle, Julia Miessner, Sam Phillips, Jeff Pingsterhaus, Jamie Storey, Julie Wollerman, Charlie Hensley, Nick Suess, Bernard "Butch" Myers. Staff in attendance were Jordee Koehler, Chris Lueking, Jamie Mahlandt and Rhonda Mueller. Guest in attendance was Destiny Fisher.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2024:

A motion was made by Jamie Storey with a second by Julie Wollerman to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

County Director Updates:

Destiney Fisher, Resource Conservationist with Washington County introduced herself.

Extension Update:

The Unit is almost fully staffed. In the process of hiring a Family Consumer Science Program Coordinator with that position closing on April 19.

Educator Program Updates:

Chris Lueking – Agriculture & Natural Resources

College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

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Chris explained the division of duties between the two Agriculture & Natural Resources program coordinators (Horticulture vs. Land Conservation/Land-Stewardship) along with programs and events that are being planning in the future.

Jordee Koehler – speaking on behalf of 4-H

The 4-H Staff is gearing up for the upcoming show season. There will be a new showing opportunity this year for the youth in the Southern Region. A Regional Showcase will be conducted at the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds. The lower 49 counties in the staff will be represented. August 17, 2024 will feature the general projects and August 23/24, 2024 will feature the livestock projects. The ultimate mission of this is to offer a showing opportunity for those youth that might not have qualified for State Fair or just couldn't make that trip.

4-H numbers are looking really good this year across the five-county area. The Youth Development Team is working on providing support to the teachers through professional development.

Jordee Koehler – speaking on behalf of SNAP-ED

Jamie Storey spoke on behalf of the positive impact that the Organwise Guys program is having on her child.

Kara is focusing on policy system and environmental level work to have higher larger scale change and is concentrating on organizing a Food Pantry Network.

The direct education staff is wrapping up their work in the schools and are gearing up for the Illinois Jr. Chef Cooking Schools which is an opportunity for ages 8 – 13. Registration is set to open soon.

Jamie Mahlandt – Family Consumer Science

Jamie and Chris collaborated together to present a Gardening and Grocery Planning event at the Trenton Education Center and at the Greenville Education Center. It was really well received at both events.

Jamie also has a Blog Post that has received state exposure with the Department of Ag sharing the blog post on their site.

Evaluations are done with all programs and the feedback has been very positive.

Jamie has also partnered with the Youth Development Educators to present Welcome to the Real World Simulation for the 8th Grade Career Conference that was recently held at Kaskaskia College. All staff from the unit participated in the event and was a great exposure of our brand. There were 94 students that participated in the simulation activity. The students seemed engaged in the simulation, the event was a huge success and a great learning experience.

Financial Update:

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Levy request season for the FY26 Budget is quickly approaching.

Jordee presented the current financial report. She indicated that we are dipping into reserves due to the increased staffing. Sam provided an overview of the levy process to council members on what funding requests need to be for each county. He also indicated that there has been significant activity in the assessment of properties in several of the counties.

After considerable discussion it was decided for the following funding requests for FY26:

Bond – remain status quo

Clinton – be reinstated to the \$165,000 level

Jefferson – 4.9% increase

Marion – remain status quo

Washington – remain status quo

Next, discussion was held on the Council Agreement for FY26. A Motion was made to increase the Funding Agreement to \$10,000 for FY26 by Julie Wollerman with a second by Galen Mahle. Motion carried.

Jordee thanked Sam for his service to the board.

Old Business:

There was no old business for discussion.

New Business:

Jordee will send out the council meeting schedule out when it is available.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.