

**University of Illinois Extension – Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam  
Unit Council Meeting Minutes  
December 17, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Held at IVCC, CTC-124**

The December 17, 2024 meeting of the Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Extension Unit Council was called to order by Monico Nunez.

**Attendance:**

Council member present: Monico Nunez, Willard Mott, Debbie Buffington, Francis Morse, Steve Tuftie, Elmer Walter, Douglas Stockey, Luke Holly, and Arratta Znaniecki.

Staff present: Extension County Director Erin Orwig, Nutrition and Wellness Educator Susan Glassman

**Minutes for September 17, 2024:**

Francis Morse moved to accept minutes as written. Steve Tuftie 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Debbie Buffington moved to accept as presented. Arratta Znaniecki 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**Flavors of the Mediterranean:**

Susan Glassman presented information about utilizing a Mediterranean diet for heart and brain health. She gave council members a handout with benefits of the diet along with meal and snack suggestions. Susan included some recipes to try and had samples at the meeting for everyone to taste. Those included caprese skewers, biscotti, and Fasolada soup. Susan also spoke about her 2025 program schedule and encouraged council members to contact her if they would like a class in their community. She is also leading a virtual walking club, starting January 15. It will run from noon-12:45pm from January 15 until February 19.

**Organizational Reports –**

Finance

Erin Orwig reported that state funds are up to date. She submitted a \$10,000 grant through Compeer on December 4 to fund a drone program in each county. The ARPA grant has been extended through December 31, 2026. Erin reported that the Bureau County United Way is current with its FY24 agreement payments. BC United Way plans to fund Bureau County at the same amount for FY25. Those funds were not put in the FY25 budget due to United Way's lack of Director.

## Program Reports (reported by Erin Orwig)

- 4-H & Youth Development, Shasta Hladovcak
- Illinois Nutrition Education/SNAP-Ed Program, Patrobas Wafula
- Ag in the Classroom, Katharine Girone
- Nutrition & Wellness Education, Susan Glassman
- Agriculture Update, Emily Hansen
  - Landowner's Conference held November 25
  - Agronomy Summit to be held January 23, 2025 from 8:30am-2pm at IVCC

### DEIA Outreach Efforts:

Staff met with representatives from Community Health Partners (CHP) in Mendota. They are a Federally Qualified Health Center. They provide both health and dental services on-site and starting to offer tele-health services for mental health. SNAP-Ed, Nutrition and Wellness, and Youth Development have potential to offer programming at their location.

### **Old Business:**

There was no old business to report.

### **New Business:**

- Shasta Hladovcak started November 15 as the Youth Development Educator.
- Thank you, Elmer and Mary Ann, for serving on the Multi-County Unit Council for 4 years. We appreciate your commitment to Extension!
- 3 Year Plan of Work due Fall 2025.
  - Programming needs discussion for 2025.
    - Please submit any community requests or possible partnerships to Erin via email.

### **Other/Special Considerations:**

- Offices will be closed December 24, 2024-January 1, 2025, for the holiday break.
- Council forms will be signed tonight and submitted tomorrow.
- 2025 Meeting Schedule:
  - March 18, 2025
  - June 17, 2025
  - September 23, 2025
  - December 16, 2025
  - All meeting to be held at 5:30pm at IVCC, CTC 124/125
- Erin Orwig will ask Emily Hansen to attend the March meeting to discuss her programming and water hemp research.

### **Location: IVCC, CTC 124**

Francis Morse moved to adjourn the meeting. Douglas Stockey seconded – motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Erin Orwig (Kathryn was absent)