



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

University of Illinois Unit 25 Extension Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Edwards County Farm Bureau Meeting Room

15 S. 5th Street

Albion, IL 62806

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Jim Brewer, Paul Bruinsma, Julie Clodfelter, Kim Fisher, Michelle Piller, Andrea Puckett, Doug Raber, Lily Simpson (via zoom)

Members Absent: Karissa Anderson, Justine Basnett, Haleigh Buchanan, Seth Clodfelter, Megan Daugherty, Tonya Potts, Matthew St. Ledger,

Staff Members Present: Tara Buerster, Katie Bell, Samantha Gaither

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Council Members introduced themselves to all in attendance, and the counties they represent.

COUNCIL ORIENTATION

Tara Buerster presented an orientation slideshow to the council reviewing the history, inner workings and changes to Illinois Extension with the new Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan handout was also given to Council members.

OFFICE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Council Chair: Jim Brewer was nominated to remain as Council Chair by Julie Clodfelter and seconded by Doug Raber. Jim accepted the nomination, and no other nominations were made. Council members voted unanimously to elect Jim Brewer as Council Chair for the new year.

Council Vice Chair: Kim Fisher was nominated to serve as Vice Chair by Doug Raber. Michelle Piller seconded the nomination. Kim accepted the nomination, and no other

nominations were made. Council members voted unanimously to elect Kim Fisher as Council Vice-Chair for the new year.

Secretary: Justine Basnett was nominated to serve as the Secretary by Michelle Piller. Doug Raber seconded the motion. Justine was not in attendance but had indicated prior to the meeting she would continue to serve in this role. No other nominations were made. Council members voted unanimously to elect Justine Basnett as Council Secretary for the new year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the March 26, 2024, meeting was reviewed by the council. Michelle Piller made a motion to approve the minutes, Doug Raber seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tara Buerster presented the Unit 25 Financial Report as of October 2024. Andrea Puckett made a motion to accept the financial report as presented, Julie Clodfelter seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) County Office Spaces: New Signage has been approved for the 4 county offices needing updated. Edwards County has updated signage due to recent move. Tara reported to Council that campus was paying for the majority of the new signage, with the exception of a new internal sign at Lawrence and she hopes to add a Block I to the Wayne County Office building that local funds would have to pay for.
- b) Open Meetings Act Training: All council members are required to take the training. New Members will need to complete training.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Approval of Check Signors for the In/Out Accounts: A list of all in/out account check signors was presented to the Council members as listed below. Michelle Piller made a motion to approve the In/Out Account Check Signors and Doug Raber seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

Edwards County

Tara Buerster
Samantha Gaither
Kathy St. Ledger
Doug Raber

Lawrence County

Tara Buerster

Samantha Gaither
Megan Daugherty

Richland County

Tara Buerster
Katie Bell
Samantha Gaither
Deborah Mitchell
Tammy Williams

Wabash County

Tara Buerster
Samantha Gaither
Tonya Potts
Katrina Glick
Haliegh Buchanan

Wayne County

Tara Buerster
Samantha Gaither
Paul Bruinsma
Melinda States
Pat Vaughan

- b) Engaging Diverse Audiences: Tara reviewed with the Council that as part of the Unit's DEIA goal we are to work to serve underserved audiences in our area and again asked/encouraged Council members to share any they are aware of or become aware of. Samantha Gaither shared the No Limits Show 4-H/Youth Development did this summer in Lawrence County and the plans for it in 2025. Julie Clodfelter brought up after school programming is needed for Richland County Middle School after the loss of their grant.

STAFF REPORTS

- a) **AG Report:** Katie shared the work she did at the high tunnel in Wayne County and that she has obtained a larger Ginger Trial grant for 2025 for the tunnel. Annie's Project will be conducted in Lawrence County this year. Katie is working with the State AG department, along with some local speakers to host the Southeastern Agronomy Summit in Albion on January 28th.
- b) **4-H/Youth Development:** Sam reported activities events happening in each county. She shared that each county would offer 4-H Signature Programs in the schools as follows: Edwards – Ready for Work, Lawrence – Health Fest and STEM, Richland – TBD, Wabash – STEM and Exploring Embryology, Wayne – Ready for Work, Tech Fest, and Health Fest. Monthly Spark at the Libraries continues in Richland and Lawrence with good attendance. We have some new Unit/Spin clubs forming along with some continuing: Livestock Judging in

Wabash and Wayne, Meat Judging in Richland, and Lawrence County is adding an Anglers club. Our unit had great showing attendance both locally, at the Regional Showcase and at State Fair. Currently 4-H in each county are collecting for personal care donation drive. We are looking at hosing a unit livestock judging contest this year.

- c) **County Direct/Unit:** Tara shared that we conducted the MyPI Disaster training with TRIO Upward Bound this summer and 25 students went through the program and participated in the mock disaster simulation. SNAP-Education held three weeks of cooking schools (1-Edwards, 1-Wayne, and 1-Richland). Wabash Valley College partnered with us for a cooking school in the spring. 4-H and SNAP-Ed staff collaborated on a cooking science program over the summer. Tara has been traveling around to several of the area High Schools presenting information to classes on resumes and job interview preparation. Tara shared that she, Sam and Katie are all Real Colors Facilitators now and can offer Real Colors Foundations or advanced modules to area schools, groups or businesses. Katie and Tara will be putting the Lawrence/Wabash County volunteers through the Foundations class. A new marketing person has been hired for the Unit. A SNAP-Ed Community Worker opening is in process. Richland County EPC interviews are completed, and references are being checked. Tara has been elected as President-Elect for the Alpha Nu Chapter of ESP for the state of Illinois. Several staff will be attending the Extension Annual Conference November 18-20. Tara also shared she has been selected to be a part of National Extension Leadership Development (NELD) Cohort for 2025 and join Extension professionals from around the North Central part of the United States in the NELD program. Tara has a few weeks to decide if she will commit/participate. Tara also shared that the Lawrence County Board notified her in October they will be increasing their agreement with Extension by \$5,000 and that she really appreciated the increase in funding from Lawrence County.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

FUTURE MEETING DATE

Members discussed future meeting dates and set the following for 2025:

- January 29th at 6 p.m.
- March 12th at 6 p.m.
- May 7th at 6 p.m.

ADJOURN

Julie Clodfelter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.