

Unit 27 Council Meeting
December 5, 2024
11:00a.m. – 1:00 pm

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by County Director Johnson at 10:57am. Verbal introductions were made around the table and name cards were placed before each attendee. **Civil rights information slips and meeting sign-in sheet were circulated around the room.**

Council members present:

Alexander/Pulaski	Johnson	Massac	Union
Ethan Bradley (YOUTH) Shawna Rhine Denna Williams Patricia Wilson Curtis Marshall	Kylie Vaughn (YOUTH)	Tracie Key Orlando McReynolds James Walton	Kristen Cameron Kendel Boysen Ruby Lingle Chuck Weilmuenster

Staff present: County Director Jody Johnson, John Shadowens, Destenie Sullivan, Eleazar Edwards, Caleb Nehring, Erin Garrett, Anne Townsend, Monica Meyer

Meeting open with Carl Baker, Government Relations Assistant Director, joining via Zoom. He discussed the Open Meetings Act, purpose of same and need to complete training to obtain a one-time Certificate. Carl Baker also discussed funding of Extension, relationship to Illinois Department of Agriculture and history of same. Carl discussed the need to contact legislators regarding funding; contact methods encouraged were via postal service and electronic means. Extension Partners are involved with seeking additional funding.

Meeting minutes from September 26, 2024, were reviewed. Motion made by Chuck Weilmuenster and seconded by James Walton to approve prior minutes. Motion carried.

Council Business

- Unit Council members
 - Review information for accuracy – no edits requested
 - Illinois Open Meetings Act electronic training – Jody will send the link to anyone that requests information.
- Extension Board members
 - Review information for accuracy - no edits requested
 - Extension Board meeting – February 13, 2024, at 10:00 am – Johnson Co Ext office
- County Extension Director Report

- Plan of Work / New issues or concerns in community – grand challenges and strategic plan were reviewed. The 6 pillars of extension were outlined and general programs under each area were discussed.
 - A quick review of the campus holiday schedule was conducted by attendees to be aware of anticipated office closures.
 - Budget - County Director Johnson shared Unit 27's account balances as of the meeting date and general discussion showed that no concerns were raised on fiscal matters. County Director Johnson expressed thanks to County Commissioners and the County Boards in their continued payments and cooperation.
 - Civil Rights and efforts to reach underserved audiences –Campus is undergoing a federal audit; local Units will be audit next year to evaluate civil rights reporting and compliance.
 - General updates – 3 vacancies currently; Union Co. SNAP-ED Community Worker; Massac Co. Office Support and Pulaski/Alexander Co. Office Support. County Director Johnson has been given permission to hire a fifth community worker (first time ever with five), this position will be advertised and filled in February.
- Unit Reports
- NREE – Erin Garrett, Anne Townsend - 2024 summary report of programs was given – Mighty Oaks of Illinois 162 participants in 9 libraries; Total Eclipse Roadshow 110 participants in 5 locations; Magnificent Moths with 42 participants; Pumpkin Extravaganza with 133+ participants (confirmed); Master Gardener with 9 active volunteers, 5 new interns and 175 hours valued at over \$5,860; Master Naturalist with 12 active volunteers and 474 hours valued at over \$15,875; two Master Gardeners (Patti Powell and Beckie Wisdom) received State Outstanding Master Gardener awards at the state conference; 6 new Master Gardener graduates; Trash Blasts in 7 locations removed 6,765 pounds of trash; Invasive species pulls removed 50 pounds of garlic mustard and one acre of autumn olives; MG and MN helped clean sort and package over 1,500 packets of native seeds; MG and MN held a herbarium specimen mounting program and cataloged 100 specimens; Cairo garden harvested and donated 1,350 pounds of food and provided youth education to 100-170 youth per month; Metropolis garden moved to a new location and still harvested and donated 2,380 pounds of food; Erin helps provide statewide content with other educators state-wide via the Everyday Environment Series.
 - SNAP/INEP staff – Ife Adesoye, Patsy Bishop, Sarita Sawyer, Tiffney Stewart - Unit Council members were directed to the updates and information provided in their packets.
 - CED – John Shadowens, Destenie Sullivan, Eleazar Edwards, Caleb Nehring – John introduced the new members of his team and a brief overview of work being

performed. They are covering the lower 16 counties of the state helping locally owned grocery stores with funding and economic hardships; staff are working with local and state extension and political figures to complete a report to be used in a report to the Illinois General Assembly to help independent grocers.

- 4-H Youth Development staff – Kristi Stout, Vickie Taylor, Dena Wood - Unit Council members were directed to the updates and information provided in their packets.

Dates and Times of future council meetings

- February 13, 2025 @ Vienna - 11am-1pm
- May 15, 2025 @ Vienna - 11am-1pm
- September 18, 2025 @ Vienna – 11am-1pm

Motion to adjourn made by Curtis Marshall and seconded by Ethyn Bradley. No objections, meeting adjourned at 1:01pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Meyer

Unit 27 - Office Support Specialist

For Unit 27 Unit Council secretary, Chesley Williams