

The Unit 22 Extension Council Meeting was held at the Collinsville Extension office on March 22, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by member Brian Mueller.

Members present: Brian Mueller, NZinga Medley, DaJuan Burton, Liz Dalton, Amy Cope, and Nancy Henss. Staff members: Pamela Jacobs and Sarah Ruth.

The January 31, 2018 meeting minutes were reviewed. Liz Dalton moved to approve the minutes as presented. NZinga Medley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Reports:

A new community worker for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)- Rima Abusaid started February 26. There are now 6 SNAP Community Worker employees and 2 Program Coordinator positions. The Unit is also allocated for one summer Extra Help staff person to help with cooking camps. Promotion of the position will begin soon.

Rachel Hazen, 4-H Youth Development Educator is teaching at school and at afterschool programs. She is shadowing Kelly Brandt, 4-H Program Coordinator and becoming familiar with community club resources.

Numerous Agriculture and Natural Resource programs were offered during the winter months. A reported was provide by Sarah Ruth, Program Coordinator.

Extension State Advisory Council-Wayne Steiner-absent. Pam talked with Wayne on the phone earlier. He reported that the Extension 3.0 committee reviewed Extension's practices and are forming in-depth committees that will focus on items that were highlighted in the 3.0 report. They are going to look at efficiency and the need to share research information around the state.

Unit Funding:

The income and expense financial statements for the Unit FY18 budget through February were shared. A pie chart that showed the sources of income was also shared. Pam is working on the FY19 and securing agreements.

Invoices have been sent to the Madison County Board, Madison Foundation, and St. Clair Foundation. Expenses are primarily using Smith Lever funds allocated from the state office to save the Unit funds.

Pam continues to work with Madison and St. Clair stakeholders on the funding crisis. She provided a sample letter and contact information for state representatives. 4-H families, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and others who have benefited from the program are encouraged to visit their representatives.

Old Business:

The St. Clair Funding Informational meetings on February 8 increased awareness of the funding situation. The participants provided some additional fundraising ideas. They asked for the sample letter for state representative. Madison and St. Clair Foundations are going to contact corporate donors.

New Business:

Promotion of Extension programs were discussed.

- Email program summaries to County Board members highlighting what we do and how it's affecting communities
- A picture collage
- Social event to invite donors
- Set-up informational booth at community events
- Increase social media presence. Create a job description and utilize volunteers to post to Facebook.

Amy Cope moved to adjourn the meeting and NZinga Medley seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

The next meeting is Thursday, May 3, 2018 at the Collinsville Extension unit Office at 7:00 PM.