

**Unit 22 Extension Council Meeting Minute  
Monday, September 21st, 2020 (Virtual)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm by Brian Mueller – President

Members Present: Chesley Ammann, Wilbon Anthony, Claire Dorsey (Youth), Rosemary Dorsey, Megan Huelsmann, Amy Kolweier, Adam Mestemacher, Brian Mueller, Janella Neary (Youth), Raeleen Neary, Emelie Nilges, April Rottmann, and Kayla Thessing.

Staff Member Present: Amy Cope

The June meeting minutes were reviewed by all. Rosemary D. made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kayla T.. Motion carried, a vote was taken, all ayes.

- Staffing / Facilities Report
  - Amy C. made an organizational chart of Unit 22 for all members to see. She walked the members through the employee chart from the Dean to all extension employees, including: Office Support Associates, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education, and Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Programs.
  - Amy C. talked about the Waterloo office move in mid-May and gave an update with the Collinsville office employees mostly working remotely due to Covid-19.
  - Amy C. discussed the ESL EFNEP office and their ability to help the poverty stricken demographic.
  - Grace M. at the JJK began programming with youth.
  - There are two current openings for staff. One in 4-H Youth Development and one in EFNEP Education in ESL.
  - Amy C. explained the Extension Equity Committee and their discussion on becoming more culturally aware for the communities they work in.
    - Two sub committees have formed. One is a Book Club and the second is a Food Justice committee.
  
- Programming Update
  - Amy C. discussed the how employees are taking this time to focus on planning for future programming.
  - Nathan is doing an online Farm Update Series where he discusses item like Wheat and Cover Crops.
  - Members discussed how to spread the word about these webinars and attracting more of an audience.
  - Master Gardener and Master Naturalists classes/volunteering are currently happening. Amy C. said they are very pleased with the numbers they had for both classes.
  - Grace M. at the JJK has 4 classes currently taking place.

#### 4-H Teen Council Member report

- Claire D. reported on the Madison County 4-H Zoom meetings in June and July. They are planning an in person meeting for October in a park. Projects at fairs have been shown virtually and seemed to work out.
- Janella N. reported that her 4-H club held their elections over Zoom. Monroe County held a virtual showing and they also participated in a corn stalks fundraiser.

#### Covid-19

- Amy C. reported that staff are only working in the office if they feel comfortable. Most educators are still not getting out in their counties. The 4-H enrollment is behind due to software updates.
- Brian M. asked about Covid-19 funding like the PPP loans or the Family Medical Relief Act. Amy C. said she did have some employees use the Family Medical Relief Act.
- Amy C. felt that Covid-19 has really given her an opportunity to meet and get to know her employees more because of the ability to have a Zoom meetings frequently.
- Amy C. is concerned about the “Out of Sight, Out of Mind” saying by employees staying at home and not getting out into their communities.

#### Fairs / Shows / Exhibits

- All 4-H in person shows were cancelled. Virtual shows had a 30-40% statewide turnout compared to the normal in person showings. Madison County had a 50% turnout and Monroe was closer to 80% turnout compared to normal.

#### ● Financial Report

- Amy C. provided a handout that is different than what the council normally sees for the financial reports. It consisted of a 7/1/19 – 6/30/20 snapshot of the different accounts and grants that the unit has.
- Both the Smith Lever and Grant money are “Use it or Lose it” dollars that need to be spent first when looking at the budget.
- SNAP and EFNEP Grants mainly go towards Salaries and Rent categories.
- Brian M. asked about the \$75,000 vs \$325,000 Smith Lever dollars. Amy C. explained that in 18’, 19’, and 20’ Smith Lever funds were guaranteed to be \$325,000. However, the next year the money will be allocated based upon how much you have in you Unit savings. She thinks in 21’ our unit will received \$75,000.
- Amy C. expects that after the numbers are adjusted, the 2021 Budget will be all even with no gains or losses to the overall categories. Finalized numbers will be out October 5<sup>th</sup> before the Monroe County board meeting.
- Amy C. mentioned she may ask Monroe County for a \$16,000 increase in 2022 funds due to the rent and employee categories. Brian M. was concerned with this because the board was not happy about the extension asking for more money the previous year even though they granted it.

- Wilbon A. led a discussion of the possibility of getting all 3 counties together to discuss funding coming from each county.
- Extension Impact Analysis
  - The University hired an analysis company which created a 110 page document showing that the extension programs provide a 10x value to the state for what the programs cost. Amy C. is working on getting a 1-2 page snapshot of that document as something that could be easily referenced to show the benefits of the extension.
- Business
  - Brian M. welcomed new members and asked that Amy C. send out the document that explains what role a council members plays.
  - There is one open position in Monroe County and would preferably be a male to keep our diversity.
  - Brian M. asked members to think about these meetings and what changes could be made to make them better.
  - New members were asked to complete the Open Meeting Act Training and submit their certifications when complete.

#### Election of Officers

- Brian M. was nominated for President and accepted the nomination.
- Adam M. was nominated for Vice President and accepted the nomination.
- Kayla T. volunteered for Secretary.
- Amy K made the motion to approve the new council members and officers. Rayleen N. seconded the motion. Motion carried, a vote was taken, all ayes.

#### Foundation Support and Fundraisers

- Harvest night so far has raised \$1,000.
- Baebler Farms Butterfly Festival is Aug 15<sup>th</sup> – Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. They put out a donation box for the extension which so far has raised \$300.

Next meeting is Monday, November 23rd, 2020 at 6:30pm on Zoom.

Brian M. thanked all for their time and thoughts.

Megan H made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Emelie N. Motion carried, vote was taken, all ayes.