

Unit 27 Council Meeting
 May 14, 2020
 11:00a.m. – 1:00 pm
 ZOOM meeting

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Phyllis Webb at 11:06 a.m.

Council members present:

Alexander/Pulaski	Johnson	Massac	Union
Anganetta Terry Alsandra Lewis	Phyllis Webb Rhonda O’Neal Jonathan Voelz	Norma Korte Judy Parr Orlando McReynolds	Chris Boyd Margarita Bartolo

Staff present: County Director Johnson, Sarita Sawyer, Robin Mizell, Monica Reid, Tiffney Stewart, Patsy Bishop, Brenda Hileman, Erin Medvecz, Kristi Stout.

Meeting minutes from February 13, 2020 were reviewed. Motion made by Jonathan Voelz and seconded by Ann Terry to approve prior minutes. Motion carried.

o **Replacement of Unit Council members**

Both youth members need replacements. County Director Johnson recognized Kirsten Goines as being a youth member who is a dual graduate from VHS and SCC and recognized McKenzie Reagor for being a youth member who is a Freshman at SCC.

Johnson County needs 3 replacements for Nancy Ford, Rhonda O’Neal, Kirsten Goines. Suggestions for replacements are Charlotte Leal [*Rhonda O’Neal*] retired teacher; Natalie Dougherty [*County Director Johnson*] Johnson County HCE President; Stevie Nance <as a youth member> [*Robin Mizell*] HomeSprouts 4-H Club member.

Pulaski/Alexander County needs 4 replacements for Rhonda Ray, Alsandra Lewis, Deborah Johnson, McKenzie Reagor. Suggestions for replacements are Shawna Rhine [*already agreed to replace Rhonda Ray*] S7HD; Hanna Miller [*Brenda Hileman*] past 4H member and Farm Bureau Manager; Waymon Butler [*Ann Terry*] former mayor and principal of Meridian; Derek Eurales [*Ann Terry*] District Governor Lions Club.

Massac County needs 3 replacements for Norma Korte, Orlando McReynolds, Judy Parr. Suggestions for replacements are Millie Wilson [*Norma Korte*], Linda Walter [*Norma Korte*]; Pastor McReynolds has a possible suggestion and will contact County Director Johnson by email later today.

Union County needs 1 replacement for Stephanie Rhodes. Suggestions for replacements are Rhonda Dillow [*Brenda Hileman*]; Keith Ellis [*Kristi Stout*] 4H parent and works for Southern FS.

- **County Director Report**

PLAN OF WORK - review of slideshow shows focus is on the following areas:

- 1) HEALTH: Healthy & Safe Community Environments: ABC's of School Nutrition Snap-Ed curriculum
- 2) FOOD: Food Access: Growing Illinois Food Access Allocation Garden(s) (GIFFA) [Snap-Ed Grant], Feeding and Growing Our Communities, Jr Master Gardener
- 3) ECONOMY: Workforce Preparedness/Advancement: Celebrate Youth, Real Colors
- 4) ECONOMY: Financial Well-Being, Welcome to the Real World
- 5) HEALTH: Chronic Disease, Prevention and Management, 4-H Health Jam, 4-H Cooking 101, 4-H Food Challenge
- 6) ENVIRONMENT: Enhancing and Preserving Natural Resources: Master Naturalist Program, SI Conservation Workshop, Which Grass is Which? Program, Planting for the Pollinators Program
- 7) ENVIRONMENT: Engagement with Home and Community Landscapes and Environment, Smart Grid Outreach Programming, Master Gardener Program Jr. Master Gardener Program

BUDGET – County Director Johnson reports that despite the current situation, Harry Clore, Fiscal Director for Extension, says that Extension is in its BEST financial position it has ever been.

Smith-Lever funds are in their final year and must be used by the end of September 2020.

Balance updates show: Trust \$218,359.27; Revolving \$7,666.10; Gift Account \$1,064.85; SNAP \$216,577.56; Smith Lever \$173,069.23; Foundation \$5,455.02. County Director Johnson would like to see the Trust and Revolving accounts with a larger balance. Phyllis Webb inquired as to how money is added to the Revolving account. County Director Johnson explained that the income for this account comes from programs that charge a fee and then subsequent expenses for those programs must be deducted from that account. Additionally, 4H program fees go in this account, along with Master Gardener and Master Naturalist fees and HCE Conference fees.

VACANCIES –

Union County SNAP-Ed CW position – 3 applicants were scheduled to test the day Extension received the COVID stay at home order, so testing was postponed. Plans are to proceed with testing to fill the position upon return to the office.

Unit 27 SNAP-ED Educator position but it was deemed a failed search. This will be re-advertised, and the position housed in Massac County once filled.

Pulaski-Alexander Co. office support position is still vacant, and the office is only open half-time. Extra Help employee, Angela Ralls, has been filling in part-time at this position until a permanent hire can be made. County Director Johnson is hoping to get approval to advertise for this position soon.

AmeriCorps VISTA project is on stand-by until COVID procedures are lifted.

County Director Johnson discussed multiple statewide committees he is on that directly effect Extension and Unit 27; committees include SNAP-Ed Fiscal Task force, State Extension Fiscal committee, and State Disaster Preparedness committee.

County Director Johnson reported that 28 Massac CNA students participated in a state event and 22 came back with placements at the state level. University of Illinois Extension was recognized for its success in training these students in disaster preparedness by way of the MyPi program.

County Director Johnson reminded Council members to complete the Open Meetings Act training and provide their certificates to us. The link to the training was shared to all members via chat box during this ZOOM meeting.

Efforts are being made to have the Elite Entrepreneurship Camp at Shawnee College completed by virtual programming.

County Director Johnson reported that the stay-at-home order came to Unit 27 on the week of March 9 or 10. The Governor had put forth the order and Extension indicated it was going to follow the order and to begin preparing to work from home. County Director Johnson acknowledged Extension and its leaders for all the cooperation and patience during the transition to working from home. Various staff members voiced their appreciation for ongoing work and opportunities to continue daily operations.

Extension employees are on a stay-at-home order until May 30, but a committee is working to slowly transition offices to re-open. June 1 Extension leaders will meet and decide what the next 30 days will be for work plans.

○ **Unit Reports**

SNAP/INEP - Patsy Bishop, Sarita Sawyer, Tiffney Stewart, Lindsey Sadler - has been having meeting and training online at least 2-3 times per week. Sarita spoke of the intense training from a Utah based program that SNAP completed. Passage of this course resulted in a 3-year certification for the Community Workers.

Erin Medvecz - ANR Environment and Energy Stewardship Educator – Prior to COVID funding approval was given for the Metropolis and Cairo community gardens. Partnered with 4H Federations to apply, and received, two Farm Credit grants and received a donation from the Autism Society of Southern Illinois [*only for the Cairo garden*] resulting in almost \$6,000 for these two projects. With current COVID guidelines discussions are being held on how to move forward. For now, hopes are to plant fall crops and build fencing for both gardens. When COVID orders came thru the Master Naturalist training was 2/3 finished and the last 4 weeks will continue in person when orders are lifted, hopefully late summer/early fall. On the positives of stay-at-home orders, many webinars are being offered and Erin directed members to the Extension webpage to find more opportunities. Illinois Invasive Species Symposium is usually a 1-day program in Champaign but has been moved to a 5-day virtual program that has given opportunities to a larger audience to attend with great success. Erin was a speaker at this symposium. Erin advised Council members that it is Extension's decision that no face-to-face programs will be offered until at least July 5. Jonathon Voelz suggested working with SRCD on a grant that he would remember the acronym to collaborate on matters to help both entities.

4-H Youth Development - Robin Mizell, Kristi Stout, Vickie Taylor, Dena Wood, Kristi Stout – Kristi reports that the 4H plans seem to keep changing daily. From today thru the end of June all 4H shows will be held virtually. Staff have ben challenged to learn a new model of pre-

registration to allow for this type of show. Staff are also making their best efforts to work with 4H families and youth and learning how to proceed with the new procedures. As of now no shows are cancelled but moved to a virtual format. Hopes are that by July maybe some shows can be held live. All shows, live or virtual, are still state eligible and the if necessary, the state shows will also be held virtual, depending on state guidelines at that time.

- **Other information**

Staff is having week meetings and briefings to keep in contact and discuss ongoing projects.

A list of upcoming dates was shared via slide show and County Director Johnson direct staff to the Unit's webpage for webinar opportunities.

Ann Terry reminded everyone of the importance to complete the Census and how the census number will help capture money for our region. Ann has asked for help reaching the communities and reminding of the importance of each person completing their obligation. She indicated that this Sunday is being considered "Census Sunday" and local congregations are being asked to reach out to their worship community in this regard. Ann shared a Census flier with info to all Council members. Margarita requested a copy of the flier in Spanish and Ann was going to make one available in that format also. Pastor McReynolds and Robin Mizell both indicated that would share with their congregations too.

County Director Johnson offered a final thank you to the Council Members ending their terms and asked that they considered continuing to volunteer in their communities. Phyllis shared that she saw a graph this week that showed only 27% of people volunteer their time and recognized her fellow Council members as a special group of people.

Dates and Times of future council meetings

- September 24, 2020 @ Vienna – 11am-1pm

Motion to adjourn made by Jonathon Voelz and seconded by Orlando McReynolds. No objections, meeting adjourned at 12:09pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Reid

Unit 27 - Office Support Associate

For Unit 27 Unit Council secretary, Chris Boyd