

Unit 21 Extension Council Meeting, May 24, 2021

Minutes

Present: Jason Warfel, Barb McGrew, Ben Fraiser, Larissa Goodman, Carl Baker, Dana Homann, Jennifer Jones, Michelle Fombelle (via Zoom)

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Dinner served
 - b. Meeting began at 6:15 pm
 - c. Welcomed new member, Larissa
2. Minutes
 - a. Approved
3. Public Comments
 - a. No public comments
4. 4-H Youth Development
 - a. All staff are preparing for summer exhibitions. We are planning for face-to-face with some restrictions currently. Kids involved in showing swine have to participate in YQCA training. All four counties have been working on hosting/planning those trainings. Livestock weigh-ins are occurring in all counties, as well as public speaking contests. This unit will be well represented at the state competition this year for public speaking.
 - b. Some unique things that have occurred in Jasper County include "Safety Day", forestry workshop at Sam Parr, and Health Jam was completed.
 - c. In Effingham County, the program coordinator is trying to reenergize the kids by having a carnival theme at several club meetings with our hot dog roller and cotton candy machine. We received drones and will work on doing programs with them this fall.
 - d. In Fayette County, we hosted a program partially in person and partially virtually. The kids wanted more check writing exposure, so Dana and Sarah Luce went into two different schools to teach those skills. Virtual officers training was finished up and we learned many things we would do differently in the future.
 - e. Dana is retiring so this will be her last Council meeting.
5. SNAP-ED Education
 - a. Some food pantries are open again, but some are only drive-through and not allowing us in to do programming. We are tapping into a new audience: veterans.
 - b. We have our first virtual foods training this week, with 53 cooks registered. Effingham school cooks will be attending, which is a first for Michelle. We are getting ready for next school year by putting together professional development for administration so we can get buy-in from the schools. We will be presenting this material at several conferences this fall.
 - c. Early childhood – doing several more virtual trainings this fall.
 - d. Large research project with U of I campus on school lunchrooms. We are at the beginning of this study and currently working on a literature review.
 - e. Working on the deer donation program with IDNR. It has been a statewide project for the last three years, but we are getting off the ground now and looking for funding. Due

to food insecurities from COVID, we think we will have more support of this program. Michelle is working to pilot this program in 12 counties, including our unit, but needs more funding. She is trying to contact Rural King to ask if they can be the corporate sponsor. They need a partnership to pay for the processing of the deer.

- f. Blessing Boxes – we reached out to the superintendent and principals of Brownstown to see if they would like to collaborate with us on this program. Ben will see if he can help us with this connection.
6. Watershed Outreach
 - a. Watershed planning efforts in the Embarras River Watershed and Salt Creek Watershed are coming along well.
 - b. Regenerative grazing virtual trainings occurred over the winter. One training was geared toward educators in the Embarras River Watershed and one training was geared toward farmers. They were instructed on techniques to help them adopt regenerative grazing practices. We are planning an upcoming in-person field day on September 8 in Coles County to demonstrate these techniques in a hands-on format.
 - c. Jennifer and Mary (Horticulture Educator) presented at the Teutopolis Grade School on Earth Day. Jennifer presented to the 6th grade science classes on watersheds and water quality. Mary presented to the 1st graders about recycling. Jennifer presented to 6th graders at the Jasper County Conservation Field Day with the rainfall simulator trailer (which is housed at the Jasper County SWCD). She can borrow the trailer and bring it to other locations if there is interest in doing this program in our other counties.
 - d. Soil health field days hopefully later this year in Effingham County in partnership with the IL NRCS Soil Health Specialist.
 - e. Rainscaping program later this year to put in a rain garden (Mary and Jennifer partnering)
 7. Horticulture
 - a. Jennifer shared some updates of programs she and Mary are partnering on together.
 - b. Carl also shared we received a drone via a grant from campus. We will be utilizing it for 4-H, Horticulture, and Watershed programming. Mary is already a licensed drone pilot and Jennifer will be pursuing her license this summer.
 8. Officers 2021-2022
 - a. Motion made to keep the same slate of officers by Jason
 - b. Seconded by Barb
 - c. Chair – Deena
 - d. Vice Chair – Ben
 - e. Secretary – Barb
 9. Signatories 2021-2022 – DANA HOMANN WILL BE REMOVED FROM ALL
 - a. Clay – Carl Baker, Michelle Fombelle, Jennifer Jones, Deena Mosbarger – REMOVE DEENA AND PUT LARISSA GOODMAN ON
 - b. Effingham – Carl Baker, Michelle Fombelle, Jennifer Jones, Sandy Croft
 - c. Fayette – Carl Baker, Michelle Fombelle, Jennifer Jones, Ben Fraizer
 - d. Jasper – Carl Baker, Michelle Fombelle, Jennifer Jones, Jason Warfel
 10. New Business
 - a. U of I Extension Update

- i. Upcoming summer 4-H exhibitions
 - ii. 4-H survey
 - 1. We are in the process of working on creating a survey for our youth members and for our parents and leaders. We want to know what we can do better, what programs they hope to see, etc. This will hopefully come out in the next month.
 - iii. Unit needs assessment
 - 1. This will be for all four counties. We want to know what stakeholders hope to see from Extension. Once we complete development of the survey, we will ask Council members to help us distribute the survey.
 - b. Jasper County building update
 - i. We are in the Sunrise Center until the end of July. We are also in the Chamber currently (we rent a desk). Discussion about potential locations for a permanent office ensued.
 - c. New members
 - i. Clay vacancies will need filled. Carl is following up with a few people.
 - ii. Effingham vacancies
 - iii. Fayette vacancies – We could use a couple new members for Fayette
 - iv. Jasper vacancies
11. Extension Council Meetings 2021-2022
- a. September 30, 2021
 - b. November 30, 2021
 - c. January 31, 2022
 - d. March 31, 2022
 - e. May 31, 2022
12. Adjourn
- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm