



EXTENSION COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 30, 2021
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- a. In attendance: Carl Baker, Jennifer Jones, Kasey Sanders, Mary Fischer, Jason Warfel, Deena Mosbarger, Norbert Soltwedel, Barb McGrew

2. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- a. No comments

3. REVIEW MINUTES

- a. Jason Warfel motioned to approve the minutes.
- b. Deena Mosbarger seconded the motion.

4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS

a. 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- i. Kasey introduced herself to the Council as the new 4-H Youth Educator. Kasey has attended an educator training at the 4-H camp in Monticello. She has been visiting the other counties in the unit to familiarize herself with the area. She is really enjoying getting to know the staff in the other offices and meeting people in the communities to get programming going. In Clay County, they just had a Beyond the Bell meeting and planning to do make and take project nights. In Fayette County, they are hoping to re-start the after school program. She has made many connections in Effingham County schools. Kasey will be getting certified in Colors personality test training in December to offer that in schools.

b. SNAP-ED

- i. COMMUNITY WORKER POSITION VACANCY – Still trying to fill this position. The first search failed because the candidate did not come in to test. We are waiting for campus to post the position again so we can share it through social media, the Chamber, etc.
- ii. HEAT GRANT – VENISON DONATION PROGRAM – Hunters can send their deer to a local processing plant and then donate it to a food bank for people to enjoy the meat. We are a pilot for that program this year and next year. We are looking forward to seeing how much venison is donated this year.

c. HORTICULTURE



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- i. Last year a solar oven was purchased. Mary has been discussing going into schools with Kasey to teach kids about solar power and how to cook with a solar oven.
 - ii. Mary is co-leading the development of a Junior and Senior Youth Master Naturalists program. A group of people are working on developing this program and hope to pilot it in fall 2022. The Audubon Society may be interested in sponsoring the program.
 - iii. Mary and Kasey may be creating new SPIN Clubs in the Unit to help kids connect with Master Naturalists. The MN could help teach the Junior MN program to students. Mary is meeting with the MN next week to discuss this idea. The MG in Vandalia have donated over 3000 pounds of food this year alone.
 - iv. Jennifer and Mary recently put in a rain garden program. One of the participants has already reached out about another potential location in spring.
 - v. The STEM kits have really taken off. Mary is developing the next kit (January) called “Yankee Weather Sticks” using Balsam fir tree limbs. The kits have been very well received and in one month, usage has jumped by 60%. The kits can help teachers further STEM in their classrooms.
- d. WATERSHED OUTREACH
- i. Rainscaping program in Effingham went really well. We had 4 participants complete the training. Participants learned how to site, size, install, and maintain a rain garden over Zoom, then received hands on training on installing a rain garden in person at the Effingham office.
 - ii. Watershed Planning in the Embarras River Watershed is going well. Jennifer is working with Soil and Water Conservation District, Illinois Farm Bureau, and Northwater Consulting colleagues to update the watershed plan and create two new subwatershed plans. She will be doing stream walks in Coles County this week as part of the watershed resource inventory.
 - iii. Soil Health Check Up Videos – Jennifer created a new series of three videos on in-field soil health tests farmers, landowners, or homeowners could use to visually test their soil’s health. These are simple tests that can be done with things found around the home. The videos are on Extension’s YouTube page and have received several views so far.
 - iv. Jennifer co-produces the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Podcast. 43 episodes have been produced to date on various conservation practices farmers can adopt to reduce nutrient loss and improve water quality and soil health. Jennifer and her colleague, Rachel, are working to develop a blog from the podcast.



Carl added that we will be hosting pesticide testing in the basement of the Effingham office in February and March.

5. DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION – ACTIVITY – Every year, we have to submit a Civil Rights report. Every three years, we have to undergo a Civil Rights review. When most people think about DEI, they focus on race and ethnicity, but there is a lot more to it including persons with disabilities, social economic status, orientation, etc. The activity Carl sent out is called a diversity wheel. Some things on the wheel cannot be changed and are constant. Some things can be changed. We should keep these in mind as we move forward and work with people. People bring different strengths and weakness to the table and it all plays into DEI. Carl is happy to answer any questions about this.

Mary just bought a bundle of youth materials that are in Spanish to work toward meeting DEI goals.

6. PLANS OF WORK

- a. It is a guidebook for programs we will be offering in the coming year. Once it is approved, Carl will get everyone on the Council a copy to look at.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. No new business

8. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- a. JANUARY 31, 2022, MARCH 31, 2022, and MAY 31, 2022

9. ADJOURN

Jason motioned to adjourn.

Norbert seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Jones.