

University of Illinois Extension – Serving Christian, Jersey, Macoupin, and Montgomery Counties
Extension Council Minutes
Hybrid Call due to COVID-19
June 17, 2021

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by Chair Jack Stork.

Those in attendance from Extension Council: Terry Trader, Jack Stork, James Siebert, Moe Bruns, and Roberta Gorden. Staff in attendance: Andrew Holsinger and Amanda Cole.

Announcement Dr. Ashely Belle has left Unit 18 to join Sea-Grant in Chicago. She will continue to work in the field of energy and environmental stewardships, but on a statewide basis with EPA. Also, Amanda Cole, has accepted the Interim Associate Director of Field Operations for Extension, and Lisa Peterson is now serving as the Acting County Director for Unit 18.

Minutes, March 18, 2021 Presented. James Siebert motioned to approve minutes as presented. Terry Trader seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carriers.

Fiscal Report: FY21 March, April and May Trust & Revolving Reports presented by Amanda Cole. This is the end of 11 months of the fiscal year. We are at 61% income received and only 61% expenses occurred. Thus far, we have had to use \$125,084.15 in carryout to cover expenses. This is double what was anticipated, but part of the cause is we have yet to receive State Funds for County Board Match and we have lots of locally funding to be received between now and June 30, 2021. Reports filed as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Staffing Updates:

- *Seasonal Extra-Help:* Dayse Valesquez, Erin Kistner and Tyler Coady has all joined the staff in May supporting the summer 4-H program needs. We were not able to find someone for the St. Francis-HSHS Litchfield Community Garden project.
- *Christian County 4-H Program Coordinator:* Alexis McDowell joined the team on June 9. She is from the area, has a Master's degree and various experience working with youth.
- *SNAP-Ed, Community Worker:* Another full-time positions, will be up to Lisa Peterson and the SNAP-Ed administrative team what the next steps are for that position. Currently, Meghan Wolff has been covering Christian County in addition to her Montgomery County duties.
- *EES Educator:* This position was funded by campus and it will be up to them if they chose to refill.

Underserved Audiences Discussion

Amanda brought this up again and shared that if the group thinks of additional communities or partners to provide outreach to, to please share those to Lisa Peterson, Acting County Director.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Programming Updates for 2021:

Amanda shared with the group that since our last meeting, she had the opportunity to meet with an elected official and community leader in Royal Lakes about doing some programming and finding out what their needs are. The contact information has been shared with Lisa Peterson, who is trying to coordinator an Onsite cooking programming for Royal Lakes community members in partnership with

the Village Hall. Andrew Holsinger is creating an Asian vegetables program. He has learned that there is an Asian food market in downtown Hillsboro and that might be a viable site for marketing to this specific audiences.

FY22 Proposed Budget & FY22 Extension Council Agreement

Amanda went over the proposed budget with Council members. And confirmed that all the dollars have been secured but the FY22 Extension Council Agreement. She has budgeted that to decrease to \$8,000.00 with one agreement for the entire four-county unit. Terry Trader motioned to approve as presented. James Siebert seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries. Jack Stork will sign the agreement this evening. Amanda shared that FY23 Extension Board meetings with levy requests are starting to occur. She was able to host Christian County's on Tuesday of this week, and both Montgomery and Jersey will occur in either July or August of this year. Macoupin's will be in either November or December, with new Extension Council members getting invited to that one.

Community Partners Award 2021:

Amanda thanked the group again for this opportunity to give back to our community partners. The schedule of award presentations is as follows: May-Christian County Farm Bureau, June-Jersey County State Bank, July-Macoupin County Board/Courthouse, and August-Montgomery County Farm Bureau.

4-H Fairs 2021

As of today, Macoupin County's is mostly done, as well as the unit wide horse show. Tomorrow will be the first of Montgomery County's shows. All is going well, and people are excited to be back in person. We still have lots of extra cleaning in place and options for those unable to attend in person. Both Jersey and Christian County fairs will occur in July.

Extension Council Seats

Amanda reported an overwhelming response. We now have 16 of the 20 spots filled and had only one or two declines this year. The other four spots will remain open and Lisa Peterson will work with staff to file more intentionally for areas where we need additional representation. Overall, Amanda just wanted to thank Council and staff for helping to recruit membership this year. We have nine new members thus far.

New Business

Walking Program

Amanda shared that Lisa Peterson has been working with local partners to create walking programs in all four counties within the Unit. In Macoupin County the program is in partnership with 4-H and with the Carlinville Plaza; Jersey County one is being planned with 4-H and at Wock Park in Jerseyville; there is two potential sites in Montgomery County; and in Christian County one in partnership with the City of Pana at the park. This Lisa's new role some plans maybe pushed back a few months or even into 2022.

Needs Assessment

Amanda shared it had been many years since we did a mailed survey to stakeholders and potential new audiences. The group agreed. Amanda will work with Lisa Peterson to prepare a draft survey for review at the October Extension Council meeting. The office will handle the mailing and data analysis. However, we will work to share the survey on social media this time to encourage and reach new audiences.

Thanks – Extension Council Members

Amanda presented a certificate and small gift for those Extension Council members whose term is ending August 31, 2021.

Educator Reports

Andrew Holsinger shared about the weekly virtual programming he has been offering, and that starting in July he will be doing in person programming.

Next meeting is Thursday, October 21, start time 7 pm, at the Christian County Extension office, Taylorville.

Jack ended the meeting at 7:38 pm.

APPROVED October 21, 2021.