

University of Illinois Extension – Unit 18  
Extension Council Minutes  
Skype Call due to COVID-19  
March 18, 2021

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Those in attendance from Extension Council: Terry Trader, Venise McWard, Dr. Jerome Epplin, Jack Stork, James Siebert, Connie Beck, Moe Bruns, Sandy Hefner, Roberta Gorden, and Greg Behme. Special Guests: Anthony Joiner and Caleb Grover. Staff in attendance: Ashley Belle, Amanda Cole, Lisa Peterson, and Sara Marten.

Both Caleb and Anthony serve on the State of Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Team. They shared their 4-H experiences and provided information about the projects and volunteer work they are part of by serving on the 4-H Youth Leadership Team. Both state part in the Legislative Connections program going to Springfield to educate elected officials on the impact that 4-H has on their lives and those of other program participants. Also, their role with the Illinois 4-H Foundation.

Announcement was that Dr. Ryan Hobson will be retiring on March 31, 2021, he serves at the Region 2 Regional Director.

Minutes, December 17, 2020 Presented. Greg Behme motioned to approve minutes as presented. Terry Trader seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carriers.

Fiscal Report: FY21 December, January and February Trust & Revolving Reports presented by Amanda Cole. This is the end of seven months of the fiscal year. We are at 43% income received and only 40% expenses occurred. Still using current years income, in part due to Smith-Lever Federal allocation. Reports filed as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Staffing Updates:

- *Seasonal Extra-Help:* Someone has been secured for the Jersey/Macoupin County and Montgomery County 4-H Summer Extra-Help positions, but we are still in need of someone for Christian County 4-H Summer Extra-Help and the Partnership with St. Francis-HSHS Litchfield Community Garden. If you know of anyone please provide their connect information to Amanda.
- *Christian County 4-H Program Coordinator:* This is a full-time position, the search will start soon, we just ask that everyone help spread the word about this position.
- *SNAP-Ed, Community Worker:* Another full-time positions, the search will hopefully start later in the spring or early summer. This person will work to fulfill the needs of the Federal SNAP-Ed grant working with eligible school districts and audiences within the unit. Base would be Christian County.

Extension Council Election of Secretary 2020-2021:

Terry Trader volunteers to help serve as secretary. Venise McWard motion to appoint Terry Trader as secretary for the remaining term, Moe Bruns seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

### Underserved Audiences Discussion

A brief discussion on potential new audiences was held. An example of a new way to reach people was the Facebook Live Events that the Christian-Montgomery County Ag Literacy Coordinator offered during COVID. She would offer a weekly trivia night for about an hour. It was promoted on Facebook and open to anyone. It created a much-needed break from the stress that many faced during the spring and early summer months of 2020.

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Programming Updates for 2021:

Amanda shared with the group some targeted work that staff had taken part in since December or had plans to work on. In December, the Community and Economic Development Program Coordinator and one of the 4-H Program Coordinators (who is bi-lingual) took time to visit with area small business owners in Montgomery County where English was their second language and made sure they had information about the "Big" Business Grant-Relief program being offered. It really opened the door for new audiences and partnerships. A small "kits" program was then offered at one of the Chinese Restaurants to celebrate the Chinese New Year with youth made lanterns. Andrew Holsinger is working on putting together an Asian Vegetable Gardening program in the next few months. Sara Marten and Elisha Hughes and been part of a statewide group working to address needs of LGBTQ youth.

### New Business

#### Community Partners Award 2021:

2021 Community Partner Award nominated had been shared with the group. The following nominates occurred: Christian County Farm Bureau, Jersey State Bank, Macoupin County Board/Courthouse, and Montgomery County Farm Bureau. Staff nominate Community Partners for their programming support in volunteers, dollars, and spaces provided. Community Partners make a huge impact on the outreach efforts we are able to achieve. Venise McWard motion to accept as presented, Sandy Hefner seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. Amanda will work with Cassie O'Connell the Unit's marketing staff member and local staff that submitted the application to get the presentation over the summer and fall of 2021.

### FY22 Proposed Budget & FY22 Extension Council Agreement

Amanda discussed she will need to postpone the presentation of the budget and Extension Council Agreement until the June meeting. She is will working to lock in local dollars for FY22 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022). All levies are secured, but she is having conversations with a few of the funders to increase their annual contribution.

### 4-H Fairs 2021

Sara Marten presented the proposed calendar of events for the four-county region. We are planning in person fairs, with a virtual option for those that request it and in case we need to switch back online. But, in general everyone is excited to be back in person. A few of the general shows have been moved to large locations to allow for more social distancing at events. And a few of the larger shows have been split up to allow for reduced capacity.

### 2020 Impact Reports

Amanda presented the 2020 Impact Reports. They have been mailed to all county board members, state elected, and federal elected officials. She also works to get to Foundation Boards. Within the Impact Reports a pre-stamped postcard was hidden to seek feedback from stakeholders.

### Extension Council Seats

Amanda went over the open seats that need to be filled for terms starting September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2023. Please send names of interested individuals to Amanda.

### Educator Reports

Dr. Ashley Belle, Environmental and Energy Stewardship Educator, shared that 58 attendees took part in the virtual Dudley Smith Winter program. Of those in attendance 1/3 were first time attendees. She has also been working on low-income home energy programming.

Sara Martin, 4-H/Youth Development Educator, shared the unit-wide Healthy Habits program that Jessica helped to lead, and the impact it was having. Also, the partnership with Nutrition and Wellness to offer Cook and Connect again. With Christian County 4-H Families getting to take part for free due to the donation by the Christian County HCEA.

Lisa Peterson, Nutrition and Wellness Educator, shared the statewide Cottage Food Classes that are being offered to help individuals that are interested in selling at local farmers markets. Also, she is continuing to offer in person Food Handler Classes and worked in partnership with 4-H for the Cook and Connect program.

Next meeting is Thursday, June 17, start time 7 pm.

Venise motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm, Sandy second. All in favor.

**APPROVED June 17, 2021.**