

University of Illinois Extension – Serving Christian, Jersey, Macoupin, and Montgomery Counties  
Extension Council Minutes  
Hybrid Call due to COVID-19  
October 21, 2021

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Acting Chair Terry Trader.

Those in attendance from Extension Council: Terry Trader, Paige Cox, Connie Beck, Dennis Rahe, Connor Ashlock, Moe Bruns, Venise McWard, Vicki Joiner, Mark Dugger, Tiffany Blasa, Alicia Gullidge, Caleb Grover, and Jerome Epplin. Staff in attendance: Lisa Peterson, Sara Marten and Amanda Cole.

Everyone introduced themselves, their roles and the county they represent.

Announcement Lisa Peterson is still serving in the Acting County Director role for Unit 18, while Amanda Cole, serves as the Interim Association Director of Field Operations for Extension. Amanda shared the news of the new building on campus that will serve as a permanent home for Extension and consolidate seven offices into one. The entire building project is being funded by private donations.

Minutes, June 17, 2021 Presented. Connie Beck motioned to approve minutes as presented. Venise McWard seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carriers.

Fiscal Report: FY22 July, August and September Trust & Revolving Reports presented by Amanda Cole. July first is the start of the new fiscal year. The Trust report is the primary account used to fund salaries and offices. During the first quarter a majority (61%) of the local tax levy income was received by the Unit as well as \$200,271.00 in State Funds for County Board Match from previous years. The Unit is ending the first quarter with a surplus of \$192,688.46. In regard to the Unit revolving account, it is ending the quarter using \$145.55 in carryover funds. The carryover is from the revenue generated from the active Master Gardener groups, past 4-H program fees, workshop fees and revenue from publications sold. Reports filed as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Staffing Updates:

- *SNAP-Ed, Community Worker:* Four applicants are eligible for testing on November 2. Then campus will provide a list of which candidates are eligible for interviews. This will be a full-time position based in the Taylorville office. 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. A formal decision hasn't been made the new program leader, who manages that position and funding just started on August 1, 2021.

Underserved Audiences Discussion

Amanda provided an update that since June's meeting, Andrew Holsinger did a target programming on growing Asian vegetables in August. And that Lisa Peterson was in communications with the community of Royal Lakes in Macoupin County to do some in person programming in the future. Also, the group had a lengthy discussion on parity, what "underserved" audiences means in Unit 18, and discussed programming and new audience opportunities. Amanda shared past outreach efforts and discussions had included Juvenile Detention Center outside of Grafton and Kemmer Village Residential facility in Assumption. From the discussion it was determined that reaching out to TASK in the Hillsboro are would put the Unit in connection with families and youth with special needs; AAMP and Brew-N-Hope in the Pana community, and Connor would look for contact(s) in Jersey County.

#### Community Partners Award 2021:

Lisa shared with the group the 2021 winners: Jersey State Bank for Jersey County; Macoupin Courthouse for Macoupin County; Montgomery County Farm Bureau for Montgomery County; and Christian County Farm Bureau for Christian County. All the awards have been presented. The 2022 award application will be reviewed at the December meeting and applications will be discussed and voted on at the March 2022 meeting. The program was started in 2020. Staff nominate partners, and Council picks the winners.

#### Needs Assessment:

Amanda will provide draft questions at the December meeting. The goal would be to mail out the survey to current stakeholders, but then via social media try to capture input for non-Extension contacts to learn about the community needs.

#### New Business

##### Open Meetings Act Training

The official website is down. Current council members that are official trained include: Terry Trader, serves on library board; Connie Beck, Montgomery County Board member; and Venise McWard, Christian County Board member. Once the website is back up, all Council members will receive an email to complete the training.

##### In/Out Account Approved Signatory

Tiffany motioned to maintain the current signatories: Amanda Cole, Andrew Holsinger, Sara Marten and Lisa Peterson for the Unit 18 In/Out Checking Account at CNB. Denise second the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Please note, Moe Burns abstained from the motion due to employment.

##### Election of Officers

After discussion the following slate was selected: Connor Ashlock, Chair; Alicia Gullidge, Vice Chair; Terry Trader, Secretary; and Vicki Joiner, Financial Report. Connie motion to elect the officer slate as presented. Jerome seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

##### Educator Reports

Sara Marten, reminded everyone about Alexis McDowell joining the staff in June to run the Christian County 4-H Program. And shared information on programming etc.

Lisa Peterson shared the what we do and why it matters piece discuss the walking program she is working on with Jessica Jaffry in Jersey County at the Wock park and the upcoming Certified Food Managers classes.

Next meeting is Thursday, December 16, start time 7 pm, at the Montgomery County Extension office, Hillsboro.

Alicia motioned to adjourn at 8:10 pm, Terry seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

**APPROVED December 16, 2021.**