

University of Illinois Extension – Unit 18
Extension Council Minutes
Skype Call due to COVID-19
December 17, 2020

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by acting chairperson Jack Stork.

Those in attendance from Extension Council: Terry Trader, Dr. Jerome Epplin, Roberta Gorden, Cheryl Canavan, Sandy Hefner, Connie Beck, Jack Stork, Gwen P, Greg Behme, and James Siebert. Staff in attendance: Ashley Belle, Amanda Cole, Andrew Holsinger, Lisa Peterson, and Sara Marten.

Minutes, June 25, 2020 and October 15, 2020 Presented. Sandy Hefner motioned to approve both minutes as presented. James Siebert seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carriers.

Fiscal Report: FY21 September, October and November Trust & Revolving Reports presented by Amanda Cole. At the end of month five of the fiscal year, the budget should be around 42%, we are currently at 42% for income and only 24% for expenses. The reason the expenses are so low, is due to the Smith-Lever (Federal) allocation given by campus that had to be spent by September 30, 2020. Then October 1, 2020, the new Smith-Lever allocation was lowered to \$100,000.00 and rent for the unit was October through December was reimbursed to the Unit 18 Trust Account. Reports filed as presented.

COVID-19 Updates:

COVID-19 has impacted staff, programming and meetings. As counties and/or the region goes into “warning” the doors have to be closed to the public, with curbside pick or pre-scheduled appointments only are allowed. Starting in December, staff had the option to return to 100% telecommute for safety reasons through the end of December. Other staff members have stayed on hybrid and a few including myself are 100% in an office working. The goal is to return density within offices to lower the risk of workplace spread. With so much uncertainty for 2021, most program planning will focus on the virtual format.

Community Partners Award 2020:

All 2020 Community Partner Awards have been presented. Winners are as follows: Christian County: CEFS; Jersey County: Farm Credit; Macoupin County: Carlinville Area Hospital; and Montgomery County: Bremer Sanctuary. The follow-up news releases are posted on social media and sent to area news outlets. Amanda reminded Council the reason behind these new awards and how COVID-19 had impacted the process. Amanda thanked Council for this opportunity to recognize community partners.

Extension Council Election of Secretary 2020-2021:

After some discussed it was tabled for the March 2021 meeting.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Programming Goals for 2021:

Amanda shared with the group the goals set for both more diverse representation on committees as well as targeted programming for underserved audiences within the Unit. These goals are outlined in the 2020-2021 Unit 18 Plan of Work, which is available to the public on the website and by request.

Community Partners Award 2021:

The proposed 2021 Community Partner Award Application was presented. A deadline has been set for March 1, 2021. Then the applications can be included for review with the March Extension Council packets. At the March Extension Council meeting, voting and discussion will occur. This will allow presentation of the awards, April – December of 2021.

Discussion of Open Council Member Seats starting August 2021:

Amanda shared current members that have terms expiring in August. The goal is for council members to bring names of potential members to the March meeting so Amanda can reach out to them before the summer.

Educator Reports

Dr. Ashley Belle, Environmental and Energy Stewardship Educator, shared upcoming programs, such as Dudley Smith Farm Winter Meeting set for February 9, 2021, this year participants will be eligible for continuing education units for Certified Crop Advisors. She also shared past programs and grant proposals. Ashley shared she won the 2020 Illinois Extension Program Evaluation Excellence Award.

Andrew Holsinger, Horticulture Educator, shared he was the 2020 Illinois Extension Technology Excellence Award winner. He talked about the Gardener's Corner and the programs that he completed in December, including the videos that are now available on Facebook for ornament and wreath making. Lastly, he shared programs he has planned in January and February including apples, berries, and starting seeds indoors.

Sara Martin, 4-H/Youth Development Educator, shared that all four counties completed their achievement nights this fall. She then presented information on three upcoming programs including Culture, Cuisine and Conversation, The Story Project and Self-Care & Resiliency Toolkit. 4-H Online is open for enrollment, and plans are starting for the summer of 2021 4-H Shows. Also, all 4-H premiums for eligible youth that exhibited during the summer of 2019 have been paid out.

Lisa Peterson, Nutrition and Wellness Educator, shared programs planned in January and February including "Weighing in on Sleep" and two in person classes of the Certified Food Protection managers Class and Exam. She has those classes planned out for the entire year in all four counties.

Jack motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm, Sandy second.

APPROVED March 18 2021.