

The May 2020 Unit 17 Extension Council meeting was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 stay at home order by the Governor.

The May 2020 Extension Council meeting was called to order by Nancy Derby at 6:31 p.m at the Piatt County Extension Office. Nancy asked the Council members and staff to introduce themselves.

Those present: Nancy Derby, Janell Baum-Thomas, Jake Franklin, Matthew Franklin, Trinity Mata, Dave Mills, Ray Spencer and David White.

Staff present: Doug Harlan, Jamie Boas, Doug Gucker, Trinity Johnson, Staci Coussens, Sarah Vogel and Caitlin Mellendorf.

There were no public attendees or comments.

Minutes from the March 2020 Extension Council meeting were presented. Ray Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Matthew Franklin seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Fiscal Update: Doug provided the Council with an update regarding the Unit's 2020 budget. He stated that the Unit had received the first half on the FY 2020 County Board Match from the State of Illinois. He stated that Extension had received word that the second half had been received but not deposit in the Unit account yet. Doug told the Council that the Unit continues to well funded and under budget in terms of expenses for the year.

Doug went over the Unit's and County's Income and Expense reports. He told the Council that the balance of our income would be showing up in the May and June Income reports. He also stated that the Unit's expenses would increase significantly as the fiscal year closes out and expenses are finally posted in the fiscal system

Personnel Update: Doug introduced Sarah Vogel, the Unit's new Horticulture Educator. Sarah introduced herself and told the Council about her background. Sarah will be working out of the Macon office.

Doug told the Council that the Unit had had one resignation – Emily Steele resigned to take a position on the Extension campus communications team. He said that he would be advertising for a replacement as soon as the Unit returned to working in the office. He also said that the two SNAP-Ed Community Workers and the Macon County Master Gardener program coordinator position had been approved, but he was again waiting until staff returned to work to move forward replacing the positions.

Programming Needs: Doug went over the Council's role in assisting with the identification of programming needs in the Unit. He asked for ideas regarding issues or areas in which the staff might begin planning educational programs. No new ideas were presented.

Program Updates:

Doug told the Council that the staff had adjusted to working from home. He said that the innovation he was seeing in virtual programming was simply amazing. The staff were doing an outstanding job.

He also told the Council that no decision had been made at this time regarding whether we would be having an in-person 4H Fair in July. He stated that this decision would be made on June 1st. If the in-person 4H Fair was cancelled, then the 4H Fair would be conducted virtually. He didn't know any details regarding the virtual fair at this time.

The staff presented short presentations regarding the work in the virtual world.

Doug thanked the following Council members for their service to the Extension Unit – Trinity Mata, Danika Young, Matt Franklin, Jake Franklin, Maria Robinson, and Dave Mills.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 7:25 PM.

Next meeting is September 14th at 6:00 p.m.at the Macon County Office.