

The May 2021 Unit 17 Extension Council meeting was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The May 2021 Extension Council meeting was called to order by Nancy Derby at 6:35 p.m.

Those present: Nancy Derby, Janell Baum-Thomas, Stephanie Block, Morgan Drozs, Kathy Drozs, Zach Howell, Trinity Mata, Tayisha Nelson, Katie Sellmeyer, and Robin Stapf. A quorum was not present for the meeting

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 2021 Extension Council meeting were presented. Nancy Derby noticed that the adjournment time on the March 2021 minutes was incorrect. The minutes stated that the meeting adjourned at the 6:37 pm instead of 7:37 pm. Doug stated that he would make the correction to the minutes and re-post them.

Fiscal Update: Doug provided the Council with an update regarding the Unit's 2021 budget. He stated that the Unit had received the first half of the FY 2021 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 be well funded and under budget in terms of expenses for the year.

Doug went over the Unit's and Individual County's Income and Expense reports. He asked the Council if there were any question regarding the reports. There were none.

Personnel Update: Doug told the Council that Unit had one SNAP-Ed Community Worker resign in March. He has posted the job opening and is moving forward with replacing the position for this federally funded grant position.

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 Gucker's Local Food Systems and Small Farms Program was highlighted at this meeting. Doug presented information regarding his work on Farm Stress and Mental Health. He told the Council this continues to be a nationwide issue for farmers. He is actively working on programming in the Unit to help bring awareness to the issues and offer resources to farmers.

Doug Harlan Update: Doug informed the Council that he had accepted an appointment as the Region 3 Interim Regional Director effective May 16, 2021. The appointment is for six months

with a possible renewal. Doug told the council that he would continue to serve as the County Director for the Unit while serving in this additional position.

Doug Gucker Update: Doug's update included information regarding his programming on fruit tree pruning, the Annual Carolyn Mason Education Day, Master Naturalist programming, Master and Naturalist plant sale.

Jamie Boas Update: Jamie provided an update on her Cooking Food Throughout History program. This program works with Monticello 5<sup>th</sup> graders and shows them what soldiers had to eat at various times in history. She is also working with seven libraries in Piatt and DeWitt Counties and 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth to grow a salsa garden over the summer. Students will use the vegetable to make their own salsa.

Caitlin Mellendorf Update: Caitlin provided an update her cooking with electric pressure cooker classes. These were well attended and received. She also presented programs on Diabetes and snacks.

Staci Coussens Update: Staci told the Council that she had been working with the SNAP-Ed EPC, Louise Hyneman, to develop new partnerships for the program. She stated that SNAP-Ed was just now getting back to in person programming. However, many of their partners were still not allowing in person programs, so virtual programming was still a large part of what they were doing. She was also working with Crossing Health Care on a grant for Growing Together Illinois. This is an interdisciplinary project for the Unit and includes the Horticulture/Master Gardener program.

Trinity Johnson Update: Trinity provided an update on her Spice it Up program. This program partners with libraries in Macon County over the summer to grow Herb Garden and teach youth how to use the herb in cooking. She also highlighted the Illinois Virtual Food Action Summit, the Global Social Justice Book Club and the Hustle for That Muscle programs.

Sarah Vogel: Sarah provided her update to the Council by highlighting programming regarding fruit tree pruning, her Anything Grows program, a virtual event with the Piatt County Master Gardeners highlighting Bryant Cottage and various other Master Gardener events in Macon County.

Katie Sellmeyer asked about plans for the 4H Fair this summer. Doug explained that since we were currently still in Phase IV of Restore Illinois, our current plans remain in place – the show will be a “show and go” with no more than 50 people in an exhibit space at one time, masks must be worn and social distancing must be adhered to. Katie was concerned about young 4Hers not be able to unload their animals without more than one person helping. Doug told her that she should have the 4Hers with concern call the office and exceptions could be made too to the rule in place. Doug also told the Council that if the Governor moves the state into the Bridge Phase,

the restriction to 50 persons to exhibition space would be lifted. Public viewing of the exhibits would also be allowed.

Doug thank outgoing Council members Stephanie Block, Zach Howell, Jo Bauer, Robin Stapf, Janell Baum Thomas, Kristi Pyatt, Corriisa Godbee and Katie Sellmeyer for the service.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 7:20 PM.

Next meeting is September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.at the Macon County Office.