

## Macon County Extension Council Meeting

September 14, 2020

Unit 17 Extension Council meeting – September 14, 2020. The Unit 17 Extension Council meeting was held via Zoom due the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was called to order by Doug Harlan at 6:35 p.m. and led by same due to Nancy Derby – Chair and Zack Howell – Vice Chair’s absence. Doug welcomed all new members and had each Council introduce themselves.

Doug asked if there were any public comments – none were made.

Members present: Jo Bauer, Janell Baum Thomas, Stephanie Block, Morgan Drozs, Kathi Drozs, Corissa Godee, April Gum, Dale Lattz, Trinity Mata, Tayisha Nelson, Logan Pyatt, Katie Sellmeyer, Ray Spencer, Robin Stapf, Ben Suckow, Jennifer Suckow, and David White.

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

There were no public attendees or comments.

Doug briefly explained the advisory role of the Extension Council. He noted that the Council was to help the Unit staff in the identification educational needs in the community. He also told explained the Council’s role in assisting the Unit with educational program planning.

Doug previously emailed the Council members the scheduled meeting dates 2020-2021. They are scheduled for the second Monday of November, March and May. The November meeting will be held on November 9, 2020 at 6:30 pm via zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The March 2021 Council meeting is scheduled for March 8th at 6:30 pm at the DeWitt County office. The May 2021 Council meeting will be in the Piatt County office on May 10th at 6:30 pm. Both the March and May 2021 meeting could be held via zoom depending upon the status of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

The minutes from the May 2020 were sent to each member and presented. No additions or corrections were given to the minutes. Dale Lattz made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Robin Stapf seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Doug provided the council with a Unit fiscal report. He provided explanations for the Unit’s three fiscal accounts and their associated reports. Doug also told the Council that County Board Match (CBM) dollars from the State had been received for all of 2019 and half of 2020. This was good news as the State is catching up on unpaid County Board Match. Doug provided the Council with the July 2020 fiscal reports for Macon, Dewitt, and Piatt. He told the Council that

the Unit had closed Fiscal Year 2020 well under budget in terms of expenses. He said that the income was tracking as planned. He asked if there were any questions. The Council had none.

Doug recommended that the current slate of officers remain the same. Nancy Derby as chair, Zach Howell as vice-chair and Jo Ann Bauer as secretary. The members were will to serve. Ray Spencer moved to approve the slate of officers. David White seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Doug provided the Council with a personnel update. He told the Council that several open position had not been filled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Doug stated that the Unit's Consumer Economic Educator position is currently open due to a failed search. SNAP-Ed has an open Extension Program Coordinator (EPC) and Community Worker position open. However, both positions have been approved for re-hire. Doug is currently working to fill both positions. He told the Council that Julia Duncan, who was one of Macon County's clerical support staff, had moved to the open Macon County Master Gardener EPC position. Doug said that he will backfill her position as soon as he could do so. He also said that Marisa Capps had started as a SNAP-Ed Community Worker.

Trinity Johnson presented a virtual bingo game for 4H and Youth Development.

Program Updates were presented by each educator:

Doug Gucker stated that he continued to receive numerous calls with questions regarding small farms, gardens and plant/crop issues. He has remained extremely busy.

Trinity Johnson stated that they continue to look for new 4-H volunteers. She stated that she had assisted with multiple virtual youth programs. Currently, she is working on a 4-H food drive in which community members can drop off food outside of the office.

Sarah Vogel is the Unit's new Horticulture Educator. She stated that she was currently preparing for the Monarch Madness program coming up later in September. She also stated that interest has been expressed by John Warner Hospital in DeWitt County for a community garden. She is currently working on this request. Sarah said that a new Master Gardener training class begins on September 15. They have 13 individuals registered. The program runs from September 15 - December 15, 2020.

Staci Coussens updated the Council on SNAP-Ed's involvement with Decatur Memorial Hospital's medical staff to consult on food insecurity with their clients/patients. She also shared that the Salvation Army in Decatur is partnering with SNAP-Ed on several projects.

Caitlin Mellendorf provided an update on her work with Healthy Eating for your Heart.

Doug shared with the Council that Mary Jo Stewart, and former Macon County 4-H Youth Development Educator, had been awarded the Macon County 4-H and Extension Foundation's Stuart Hawbaker Life Time Achievement Award. Mary Jo currently resides in an Assisted

Living Facility. The Foundation is planning a drive-by parade to honor her on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.

No other business or discussion was brought up. Katie Sellmeyer motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ray Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm. Next meeting is November 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Bauer