

## Unit 26 Extension Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Type: Regular Scheduled

Location: Perl County Extension Office

**Extension Council members present:** Rick Avery, Brenda Jones, Ruie Whitecotton, Rick Whitecotton, Ron Ferguson, Beverly Harsy, Don Harsy, Jon McClurken.

**Extension Staff members present:** Lynn Heins, Nathan Johanning, Susan Sloop, Landon Chandler, Austin Little, Rhonda Shubert.

**Guests:** Kally Mayo, Keely Epplin, Kyla Epplin, Paige Epplin. (All 4H members from Perry County)

The meeting of the Unit 26 Extension Council was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Ron Ferguson.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the November, 2018 Extension Council meeting were reviewed. Ron Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jon seconded. Motion carried and the minutes stand approved.

**Financial Report:** A written report dated 1/8/19 was presented to the council. Lynn gave a review of the report noting that the County Board funding for Jackson County went down and the funding for Randolph Co went up, with the rest remaining the same. There still has not been any state match of funds but everyone seems optimistic that it will be coming. The financial report will be filed as reported.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:** Lynn introduced the new Horticulture Educator, Austin Little to the board. Austin's home base will be Jackson County. Both Austin's and Susan Sloop's knowledge and activities were brought to the boards attention. Recent articles have appeared in the papers highlighting Susan's activities and Channel 3 interviewed Austin for information about the monarch butterfly.

An organizational chart for the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an Organizational List for Unit 26 was distributed to all. This had been requested by the board in order to have a clearer understanding of the various people working in the offices in our 5 counties. A thank you went to Lynn for putting this all together.

Lynn then lead the group in a discussion on local needs regarding hunger/food insecurity and chronic disease/obesity. The group was to keep in mind that the goal of extension is trying to improve lives in the community. Current activities in the area were brought up and some suggestions were made with regards to things the extension could possibly do. It was noted that a possible nutrition and wellness educator would be a great asset to the counties to facilitate the activities to accomplish the goal.

It was noted that there is an opening for a 4H Youth Development Educator in case anyone knows of a possible applicant. In addition, Lynn discussed Toni Kay's efforts to apply for "Growing Illinois Food Access" grant money.

**Staff Reports:**

Verbal staff reports were given by

Susan Sloop (Family Life Educator)  
Landon Chandler (SNAP - Ed Community Worker for Randolph/Perry County)  
Nathan Johanning (Extension Educator, Local Food Systems and Small Farms)  
Rhonda Shubert (Program Coordinator, Perry County)

Written reports were received by those present as well as the following:

Toni Kay Wright (SNAP Ed Educator)  
Cindy Bauman (Franklin Co 4-H Program Coordinator)  
Rebecca Needham (Jackson Co 4-H Program Coordinator)  
Brandi Swisher (Randolph Co 4-H Program Coordinator)  
Esther Waddy (Williamson Co 4-H Program Coordinator)

After listening to the verbal reports those present took time to review the written reports.  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next Extension Council meeting will be held **March 18, 2019** in the **Randolph County Extension Office at 6:00 p.m.**

**Additional meetings**

**May 20th — Williamson County**

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Jones  
Council Secretary