

Unit 26 Extension Council Meeting

March 18, 2019, 6:00 p.m., Randolph County Extension Office

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER - The Unit 26 Extension Council meeting was called to order by SNAP Educator Toni Kay Wright.

MINUTES – The minutes from the January 14, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Rick Avery made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ron Ferguson seconded. All were in favor; the motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT- Toni Kay delivered the financial report. On the revenue side: Most of the agreements (local revenue) have been collected. Lynn is working on gathering the final payments from HCE and the Perry County Farm Bureau. The main reason for the large revenue gap is the lack of state match for FY19. With 4 months left to go before the end of the fiscal year, we will soon show a deficit due to lack of state match. For this year, we are once more afforded the opportunity to receive \$325,000 in Federal Smith Lever funds that will make up for the state match shortfall. In the coming years, it will be important to encourage County Boards to contribute more towards the maximum allowable levy (.05 mil) of the County's assessed value, and to continue touting Extension's value to the state legislature.

NEW BUSINESS

- County Director Update
 - HB 2264 – Changes the “Extension Law” wording relating to state match, formally referred to as “County Board Match”, from “may” to “shall”. This bill is currently sitting in appropriations committee and is waiting to be called to the floor. It has 8 co-sponsors. If this bill were to pass, it would put an end to our uncertainty surrounding state match.
 - Unit Budget – There are no significant changes for next year's budget, other than we are “reclaiming” an office in Perry County for a Marketing and Communication position. This will increase our rent, as well as add a salary to the Unit budget. This position will be housed in Perry County – a central location to better serve the unit. This is not a new position to the Unit, but it has been vacant since November, 2017.
 - Staffing – The search for the 4-H Educator position has ended and a candidate has verbally accepted the offer. While not yet official, the individual is set to begin work April 8. The council will have an opportunity

to meet the new 4-H Educator during the Williamson County Extension Council meeting in May. Extra help summer staffing has been arranged to help with 4-H shows and agricultural/horticulture duties at Ewing Demonstration Center and Jackson County Extension High Tunnel and grounds.

- Randolph County 4-H Update – Brandi Swisher provided an update for events and activities in Randolph County.
- “This is SNAP Education” – Hannah Sickmeyer, SNAP-Ed Community Worker and Unit 26 MPH Practicum Student. Hannah Sickmeyer presented a short video which highlights SNAP Education efforts in Unit 26.
 - Food Pantry Efforts in Southern Illinois – Toni Kay Wright, Unit 26 SNAP Ed Educator. Toni Kay provided an overview of contributions that the program has made toward the Southern Illinois Food Pantry Network.

STAFF REPORTS

- Verbal Reports:

Unit 26 Educators provided verbal staff reports. Brandi Swisher highlighted work that has been done to reach an underserved audience, the Hispanic population in Randolph County. Brandi has been working with Dr. Margarita Teran to bring the Abriendo Caminos program to Randolph County. Brandi has also recruited two new Hispanic 4-H Leaders.
- Review Written Reports – the council reviewed written reports submitted by staff.

ADJOURNMENT