



**Unit 26 Extension Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 6 p.m.**  
**Jackson County Extension Office**  
**402 Ava Road, Murphysboro (with Zoom option)**

**MINUTES**

**Council members in attendance:** Jennifer Barbour, Gail Johnston, Amy Eplin, Nannette Vaughn, Jean Alstat, Sarah Ward, Harvey Gillespie

**Staff in attendance:** Robin Ridgley, Katie Bell, Misty Bernard, Lynn Heinz, Nick Brown, Carrie Eldridge, Becky Needham

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Jennifer Barbour at 6 p.m. Jennifer introduced ice breaker game to be done while introductions took place.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Prepared by Terri Cagle and given by Lynn, featured simplified format and emailed to attendees.

- Motion to accept made and seconded, passed

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Secretary of State Open Meetings Act online training is still down. Council members were reminded that they are still required to take this when it becomes available again online

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Excite Grant New Position, Vaccine Champion/Coordinator, Jennifer Newberry
  - 60/40 Vaccine awareness/Snap-Ed
  - Provides education and
  - Assesses (survey) reason for hesitations
- Needs Assessment – Lynn
  - Presentation on the purpose for a needs assessment and our Unit-specific programs
  - DEI Goal: Target at least one high need community in each county with a signature program or project.
  - Lynn lead a Polling event using phone/texting to answer questions about needs in each county/community. The questions and answers follow:

1. What are the most pressing issues in your communities/counties relating to health/wellness or food?
  - Health
  - Obesity
  - Isolation
  - Lack of fresh foods
  - Food insecurities
  - Transportation
  - Mental Health
  - Food and nutrition
  - Substance abuse
  
2. Thinking about the county where you reside, which town/community do you feel is the highest need in relation to health, wellness or food?
  - Tilden
  - Chester
  - Carbondale
  - Alexander county
  - Herrin
  - Tamaroa
  - Johnston City
  - Percy
  - Elkhart area
  - Cutler
  - Willisville
  
3. Do you have any idea for promoting access to more healthy foods in your community?
  - Gardens
  - Transportation
  - Education
  - Delivery
  - More access locations
  - Vouchers
  - Local farmers providing food to local food pantries and senior centers for their meal programs
  
4. How important do you think regions agricultural research and extension centers are in relation to the ability of Illinois Extension to serve the agricultural community?
  - Very
  - I don't know
  - Scale from 1-10, an 8
  - Very important. Chemical free gardening/farming research is very important also.

5. What ideas do you have to reach more volunteers for 4-H program/clubs, or Master Gardner/Naturalist?
  - Figure out how to make the commitment less daunting for master programs
  - Reaching out to schools, specifically clubs that need volunteer hours.
  - Possibly utilize SIU students, If they volunteer a certain number of hours that can go their transcript. It is through the Saluki volunteer Corps.
  - AmeriCorps
  - What about reaching out to high schools that have work study programs to get credit
  - Candy Cane Lane info table
  
6. What do you think is the BEST way to market 4-H to youth in non-traditional settings?
  - Libraries
  - Low income housing
  - Guest speaking at PTO at Schools
  - Randolph county housing department in Sparta has a huge multipurpose room
  - After school programs
  - FB campaign
  - Baking “Camp” on a Saturday afternoon
  - Girl scout clubs can also be 4-H clubs
  - Promote scholarship opportunities from participating.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

- **JACKSON County staff reports** given by:
  - Katie Bell
  - Nick Brown
  - Misty
  - Carrie Eldridge
  - Becky Needham
  - Robin Ridgley
  
- **Vacancies opening** within the unit coming soon, but not posted.
  - Office Support – split between two counties, Perry 2 days and Franklin 3 days
  - Horticulture Educator - Should open February or March

#### **NEXT MEETING**

**The next council meeting will be held at the Perry County Extension office** in Pinckneyville on Tuesday January 11 from 6-7:30 p.m. (action planning building on needs assessment from this evening).

- **Adjourn-** Motion made, seconded, so moved at 7:35

*Submitted by R. Ridgley 11/10/21*