



Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

University of Illinois Extension
Sangamon, Menard, and Logan Counties
Extension Council Meeting
January 16, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
221 E Douglas Ave., Petersburg, IL

Draft Minutes

- Call to Order – In the absence of Chairman Hall, the meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Bree at 7:02 pm.

Present: Bill Bree, Gary Letterly, Nancy Dixon, Jennifer Taylor-Brown, Phil Sidles, David Mendenhall, Ruthie Ruhl, Zach Dixon, Ryan Hobson and Terri Miller.

- Previous Meeting Minutes – Minutes from the previous Council meeting in September were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Ruhl and seconded by Taylor-Brown. The motion passed.
- Introductions of Members and Guest - Vice-Chairman Bree had the councilmembers go around the table and introduced themselves and Miller introduced a special guest, Ryan Hobson, Extension Region 2 Director.
- Financial Report - Miller gave a financial report and mentioned that Extension had still not received state matching money for the previous fiscal year. However Extension had received some current fiscal year payments.

She also announced that they had received a \$1,000 donation from Scheels for the local 4-H program.

Miller said that work on the Unit's fiscal year 2021 budget will start this spring and a budget update will be given at the March meeting.

- Program Updates - Miller handed out staff quarterly programing reports to the councilmembers and informed the group about state 4-H Award winners. Fourteen teens from Illinois attended a five-day national 4-H conference in Atlanta, Ga. Nov. 29 – Dec. 3 including Logan County 4-H members, Miranda Nelson, daughter of Melanie Nelson & Don Nelson, a member of the Middletown 4-H'ers club; Ruthie Ruhl, daughter of Scott & Gena Ruhl, a member of the Topper 4-H Club in Mt. Pulaski; and Sarah Starasta, daughter of Mike & Leslie Starasta, a member of the Cloverdale 4-H Club in Lincoln. Illinois delegates to National 4-H Congress are selected on their outstanding 4-H accomplishments. Miller than asked Ruthie Ruhl to talk about her experiences at National Conference. She told the group that the experience had been transformational and how much 4-H has made a difference in her life.

Miller also highlighted a recent program given on Farm Stress held in December at the Sangamon County Farm Bureau. It was a partnership with the Farm Bureau and was taught by Pam Schallhorn, CED Region 2 Specialist.

Miller also pointed out a recent “Introduction to Industrial Hemp” workshop that was held at the Sangamon County Extension office on November 25 to a packed house. The program was very positively received and was taught by Extension Educator Philip Alberti.

- Staffing Update - Miller gave a report on the following recently hired staff members:

The new Logan County SNAP-Ed Community Worker, Sarah Swaar, is settling in nicely and has completed her training and started programing in schools and at local food pantries.

The new Sangamon County 4-H Program Coordinator, Amy Zepp, is also settling in well and is already helping plan new programing opportunities and volunteer recruitment.

Pam Schallhorn, CED (Community and Economic Development) Specialist Region 2, located at the Sangamon County Extension office, has already made many good contacts and partnerships in the community and is working with Innovate Springfield and LLCC to offer business development classes to help educate and encourage area Entrepreneurship.

Miller announced that they are currently looking for someone interested in helping to cover the Unit offices as support staff Extra Help. They would be needed to work when office support staff will be absent. This person would answer the phones, greet customers, and assist with simple support tasks around the office. This work would not have a set schedule, rather they would only be needed intermittently. During the winter months, maybe two or three times a month, more frequently in the summer when staff take vacations. It would be preferred if they were willing to cover any of the three offices in Springfield, Lincoln, or Petersburg. A person who has an open schedule would be ideal. Knowledge of Extension is useful, but not required. She asked councilmember to contact her if they had suggestions of individuals who might be of interest.

- Reaching New Audiences/Meeting Community Need - Miller announced that she is hoping to form a Unit Ag Advisory Group. She has been talking with the local Farm Bureaus and they believe such a group would be of benefit. The group would be an informal group that would meet periodically to discuss topics of concern, or immerging issues in the Ag community and ways that Extension could help address that need. They are looking for a cross representation of the counties, as well as knowledge and expertise, from row crop producers, to livestock operators, to specialty crops, to agri-business professionals. She said that she was looking for volunteers or suggestions of individuals who might serve on the group. She would like to start meeting in spring with 10-15 participants being a nice number.

Miller also asked the Council to consider audiences that are underserved or that Extension is not currently reaching well and welcomed their input on ways Extension can reach out to these communities, including individuals that might help Extension bridge the gaps. Miller also requested that the Councilmembers please contact her if they see a critical community need that Extension could help address.

- Public Input – There were no public comments.

- Future Meeting Dates -
March (Thursday, March 26 – Springfield Extension Office) (Extension Board also meeting.)
June (Thursday, June 25 – Logan Extension Office)
September (Thursday, September 24 – Sangamon Extension Office)
- Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Letterly seconded by Mendenhall. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.