

Extension Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 10, 2019
Stephenson County Office
2998 W. Pearl City Rd.
Dinner 6:00 pm - Meeting 6:30 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions- Chairperson Don Kowalski: Attending--Beth Baranski, Grant McCarty, Jim Webster, Bob, Carol Erickson, Drew Groezinger, Ethan Trampel, Debra Lischwe, Chris Urish, Ray Massingill, Garnett Fee, Jeff White, Margaret Larson, Diane R...
2. Review and approval of 12/10/19 Agenda- Drew moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Beth, approved.
3. Review and approval of 4/4/18 Meeting Minutes- Grant McCarty requested his name be added to the attendance for the 4/4/28 Meeting. Ray moved to accept minutes with discussed change, Drew seconded, approved.
4. Review of Dean and Provost Visit in September. Unit 1 hosted **Dean Kidwell, Shelly Richard, and Andrius...** in September 2019. Monica shared that the crew visited the Highland Agriculture Research plot to see the research being done in collaboration with University of Illinois Extension. Don attended the meeting held in Stephenson County and he requested that support for 4H programming in Unit one continue. Jeff white talked with **Angie B** about fundraising, requesting that as more funds are to be generated locally, some professional fundraising training is offered from state level to local units.
5. Council Members Sharing- Positive remarks about the summer 2019 council meetings being held at the county fairs were shared by Ray Massingill, Chris Urish, and Monica Pierce. Youth 4H participants were knowledgeable, mature, enthusiastic, organized, and impressive. Monica shared that spotlighting these youth in a video could be used for fundraising video and Ray shared that legislators could be invited to these summer meetings. Beth commented that Extension is everywhere. Extension is partnered with the EPA and the IL Department of Ag on the IL Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy as well as watershed research on the Rock and Illinois River.
6. Extension State Advisory Committee Report- Jeff White shared the following highlights from the meeting he attended in.....
 - a. Recap of the 4 pillars of Extension
 - b. Extension mission has been worked into the College of Aces
 - c. Extension fundraising is focusing on endowments vs. individual donations.
 - d. Website is being updated
 - e. Plant Clinic may move location
 - f. There is a new computer reporting system for volunteer hours
 - g. Money still (four years straight) has not been released from the IL Department of Ag to Extension

Following the report, Jim Webster commented that it may be worth looking into corporate giving opportunities through donation committees within individual corporations. Beth commented that the Community Foundation of Jo Daviess County may be a resource as well.

7. South Africa Extension Trip- Grant McCarty reported on his two week visit to South Africa that occurred..... While in South Africa, he met with Extension professionals at the University of Pretoria, University of KwaSulu-Natal, and Cedara College. Grant reported a few differences between the South African Extension system compared to that in Illinois. A South African Extension Agent receives training in technical agricultural skills as well as educational programming development and assessment. In Illinois, training is focussed primarily on technical skill. Once a student goes through the education required to become an Agent in South Africa, they no longer receive support, nor are connected to the university or other agents. This is different from the relationship that Extension Educators have in Illinois to the University and to one another. The visit provided opportunity for

exchange of ideas. Moving forward, collaboration may occur through digital professional development and South African Extension visiting Illinois campus.

8. Programming updates from Educators. Carrol has worked to improve food access to communities in Rockford by developing a farmer's market in MidTown neighborhood as well as two donation gardens in which the produce from the garden is donated to two local food pantries. She has also worked with Dianne on professional development with food service directors in all counties. She is also working on at the state level on a committee to expand the summer lunch program in Illinois. Carrol recently celebrated 20 years with Extension. Dianne has been offering multi week chronic disease prevention and management courses for mid to older aged community members. Programs are on cardiovascular disease, diabetes, pre-diabetes, COPD, osteoporosis, arthritis, and inflammation. She continues to offer food safety classes including the food protection manager course and the food preservation courses. Grant will be offering 7-8 different fruit tree pruning workshops over the next couple months. Jay is involved with the NWIL Forestry Association and Highland is hosting the Tri-State Forestry Conference. Phillip has spent much time on Hemp Education, speaking to producers and presenting at many conferences.
9. Update on Finances- Margaret reported that this is the 4th year in a row that the Illinois Department of Ag has not released funds to Extension. There is \$28 million outstanding payment that is owed.
10. Update on Unit 1 Staffing- Margaret report that our two youth educators, Jackie DeBatista and Annie..... Have left Extension. Jackie took an Executive Director position at Angelic Organics Learning Center and Annie took a position with the City of Rockford. There is also an opening in Winnebago County for Program Coordinator(?). Due to missing payments from the ILDOA, no action is being taken to fill these positions at this time.
11. Next meeting will be at each county office and each county will skype in the other counties. We will have a late spring meeting at the Stephenson County office, and summer meeting will be at the county fairs