



# Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

University of Illinois Extension  
Sangamon, Menard, and Logan Counties  
Extension Council & Board Meeting Minutes  
June 9, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.  
Menard County Extension Office

## Agenda Items:

- **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nancy Dixon at 7:08 pm.
- **Council Members & Staff Present:** David Mendenhall, Elsie Ransdell, Nancy Dixon, Zach Dixon, Emma Wankel, Jacob Hartman, Keenan Leesman, Phil Sidles, Dave Opperman, and Terri Miller Casey.
- **Previous Meeting Minutes**  
The minutes from the January council meeting were presented. A motion to accept last meetings minutes was made by Zach Dixon and seconded by David Mendenhall. Motion passed.
- **Financial/Fiscal Updates**  
Casey reported that they are currently completing the FY2023 final budget. Extension's budget year is the same as the State of Illinois' and begins July 1. The main concern with budgeting for the year is adjusting it to mitigate the effects of inflation. With inflation on the rise, the cost of goods and services are going up dramatically and looking ahead salaries will surely have to increase to follow pace to attract or retain workers. Extension has not requested an increase in funding from any of the County Boards since at least 2011. Working with our County Boards and their representatives on this Council, we will be requesting an increase in our levy amount this upcoming budget year in all three counties equal to the official increase in CPI. (5%) The County Boards establish county budgets and approve levy request, so it will ultimately be up to them if the requested increases are approved.
- **Program Updates**  
Casey handed out copies of program reports prepared by Extension staff and pointed out highlights.
- **Staffing Update**  
Casey reported that the Sangamon (Springfield area) SNAP-Ed Community Worker and Logan County 4-H Program Coordinator positions were still open. They reposted the Program Coordinator position in April and had a failed search, and the Community Worker position is currently posted and available on the University job board. Applications for this position will be accepted until June 23. It is a full-time position with benefits and doesn't require much experience and only a high school diploma to apply.

The unit had another retirement in April, Amy Hyde, from Logan County, who was a 4-H Program Coordinator and focused primarily on Ag in The Classroom work. Terri will talk with the Ag Education Partnership and Farm Bureaus soon about the opportunity that this vacancy offers to reimagine staffing.

The Springfield metro area focused 4-H educator, Annette Reese, resigned her position. This position is paid for by the state 4-H office, and the unit will do an assessment of the metro area to determine the true needs and priorities of the position before rehiring.

- **Reaching New Audiences/Meeting Community Need**

Casey reported that recent one-on-one discussions and various community needs assessments have shown that there is great need for ag and natural resource education in the unit for both youth and adult audiences. Casey would like to work with area partners and stakeholders to discuss ways Extension can help address this need and get the resources necessary to meet the challenges.

- **Future Meeting Dates**

Thursday, October 13, 2022 – 7 PM (Logan County Extension Office)

- **Public Input**

There were no comments from the public.

- **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dave Mendenhall and seconded by Zach Dixon to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm