

# ILLINOIS Extension

**University of Illinois Extension  
Sangamon, Menard, and Logan County Council  
March 27, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.  
Sangamon County Extension Office – Springfield, IL**

(This Meeting also served as the County Extension Board Meeting for Logan, Menard, and Sangamon counties.)

Present: David Mendenhall, Lynn Chard, Jim Strubing, Mary Brown, Jennifer Taylor Brown, Brenda Buckles, Gary Letterly, Daniel Kloppe, Charles Ruben, Colleen Harms, Craig Hall, and Extension Staff, Terri Miller, Erica Austin and Kayla Swaar.

Absent: Eli Klokkenga, Otto Rentschler, Ed Whitcomb, Jr., Kevin Bateman, and Ny'Torious McCoy, Bob Farmer, Jill Keeton, Grace Skelton and Alex Bruno.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman David Mendenhall.

The council reviewed minutes from the January meeting, Chard made the motion to accept, Buckles 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Program Updates** – Miller introduced Kayla Swaar, SNAP-Ed Educator for the Unit, who gave a report on recent SNAP-Ed programming including the “Smarter Lunchroom” program. With this program, she has been working with local school districts to help their lunch room staff evaluate its current program and she then suggest ways the staff can make healthier food item more enticing to kids so that they voluntarily choose healthier options.

Miller also gave a report on Ag and natural resources programming, Horticulture programs, Ag in the Classroom, and SNAP-Ed activities. Sangamon County 4-H Metro Educator, Erica Austin, gave a detailed report on the Metro 4-H programs and recent activities. Miller also gave a report of other 4-H activities and programs happening in the Unit.

**Fiscal Report:** Miller reported that Extension had still not received the state match, and they do not know if county match will be included in the upcoming state budget. Despite these budget challenges, Miller reiterated that the Unit runs very lean and is continuing to cut expenses wherever possible in order to make it through the financial crisis, however they our depending on reserves to bridge the funding gap, and those funds will not hold out indefinitely.

She is currently preparing the Unit’s 2019 budget, agreements, and leases, and expected few changes from 2018’s. The Unit will be requesting the same levy amounts as the previous year in all three counties.

Council member Ruben suggested that the County Boards could put out a letter or proclamation in support of Extension. Miller expressed her interest in doing so and stated her gratitude to the county boards and their continued support of Extension.

**Staffing Update:** Miller announced that Kalyn Berglin had been hired as the new Logan County Office Support Associate and started February 5. She is a Lincoln native and has many years of experience, both as front-line customer service, and with fiscal and bookkeeping work.

**Reaching New Audiences/Meeting Community Need** - Miller then discussed the importance of affirmative action and civil rights compliance. She asked the council to consider the programming needs of minority groups and all underserved audiences within the three counties. She discussed current programming in the unit that was successfully reach minority and underserved members in our communities. Miller asked the members to continue to provide feedback and recommendations to Unit staff on ways to address the needs of all members of our counties and communities.

**Council Members with Expiring Terms** - The following members' terms will expire after the next (June) meeting: Lynn Chard, Robert Farmer, David Mendenhall, Ed Whitcomb, Jr., and Charles Ruben. The council were asked to help locate potential new council members who have an interest in Extension, a variety and diversity of experiences and perspectives, and a passion to help their communities.

**Future Meeting Dates, Times & Locations** - The Council was reminded of future meetings date, times and locations, which include June 26 at 7 pm at the Logan County Extension office and September 25 at 7 pm at the Sangamon County Extension office.

Chairman Mendenhall adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.