

The March 2018 Extension Council meeting was called to order by Chuck Fay at 6:36 p.m.

Those present: Dave Mills, Chuck Fay, Betsy Barnick, Ray Spencer, Janell Baum-Thomas, Stephanie Block, Zach Howell, and Robin Stapf.

Also present: Doug Harlan, Amy Leman, Doug Gucker, Candice Hart, Staci Coussens and Caitlin Huth.

There was not a quorum of the Council present in order to vote to approve the November 2017 minutes. The approval of the minutes was pushed to the May 2018 Council meeting.

**Fiscal Update:** Doug provided the Council with an update regarding the State County Board Match payment. He told the Council that no additional information was available regarding when we could expect payment on the County Board Match money. He did state that the House had a bill which would change the wording in the State Extension Law from “the state may... to the state shall...” This is the wording being used by the Governor to justify not paying Extension its County Board Match money. Doug asked the Council to contact their legislator and ask that they vote to support the change in wording.

Doug reminded the Council that Federal Smith-Lever money was making up the difference in loss of County Board Match dollars. Doug told the Council that they were receiving \$325,000 of federal Smith-Lever dollars which is supplementing the lost state money. He did say that the federal money would run out in 2020. He continues to be concerned that Extension does not have a funding plan past 2020 if state money continues to be cut. Doug did tell the Council he has enough money to support a full staff (current staffing) for two years without state money before staff positions will have to be cut.

**Personnel Update:** Doug introduced Jamie Boas as the Unit’s new 4H Youth Development Educator working in DeWitt and Piatt Counties. Doug told the Council that this meeting would be Amy Leman’s last in the Unit. Amy has taken a new position in the State 4H Office. Her last day will be March 15th.

**Programming Needs:** Doug went over the Council’s role in assisting with the identification of programming needs in the Unit. He asked for ideas regarding issues or areas in which the staff might begin planning educational programs. No new ideas were presented.

Amy explained that Jamie and the three EPCs in Macon County will be picking up her workload until a new Educator could be hired. Dave Mills asked a question regarding who the three EPCs were and what they did. Doug explained that Brittani Garner was responsible for the Macon County 4H Community Club program; Becky Hugo was responsible for Urban (formerly Metro) and partnership

programming; and Samantha Rusk was responsible for STEAM programming and coordinating the 4H Fair Books and projects.

**EEO and Affirmative Action Programs in Extension:** Doug explained to the Council about these programs in Extension. He explained that any complaints or concerns related to these items should be referred to him first. If he could not resolve the issue, then he would forward it to Extension's leadership. Doug told the Council that he had available the complete written documents for both programs. If Council members wished to read the documents, he would be happy to send them to the Council member.

Doug a lengthy discussion regarding changes to the Unit's 4H programming. He told the Council that he had given the Unit's 4H Youth Development staff the goal of having one combined Unit 4H Fair by 2022. He explained that the 4H Youth Development program was the most expensive program in the Unit. He told the Council that the Unit has 10 dedicated staff members for the program. Doug told the council that with looming budget reductions, the Unit had to start now to look for efficiencies in the 4H Youth Development program. He said that the 4H Fair was the best place to start. Janell asked what the cost of a fair was for the Unit. Doug told her that outside of personnel cost, a 4H Fair cost between \$2000-\$3000 on average. Doug explained that the efficiencies he was looking for were in the time involved and staff cost. Doug also explained that 4H premiums would not change. He stated that the Unit's premium dollars had already been combined in an effort to simplify the process. In fact, the 4Her's from DeWitt and Piatt counties were actually receiving more premium money, because of the higher number of premium eligible youth in Macon County. This idea will be continually evaluated and will take further discussion by the Extension Council.

#### **Program Updates:**

Caitlin Huth and Staci Coussens highlighted their programs. They led the Council through a Behavioral Economic lesson – why people make the food decisions they do. They talked about the placement of food items in a grocery store, the color of foods that appeal most to kids, and different methods to market healthy food to encourage kids to make healthy choices.

Other program updates were placed in the Council members binders. Each Educator went over their written reports.

With no other business, Ray Spencer motioned to adjourn the meeting and Betsy Barnick seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm. Next meeting is May 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the Piatt County Office.