



Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**University of Illinois Extension
Sangamon, Menard, and Logan County Council
March 26, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.
Logan County Extension Office – Lincoln, IL**

Council Members and Staff Present: Jill Keeton, Bill Bree, Jim Struebing, Craig Hall, Jennifer Taylor-Brown, Mary Brown, Daniel Kloppe, Brenda Buckles, Charles Ruben, Alex Bruno, and Terri Miller.

Council Members Absent: David Mendenhall, Gary Letterly, Amareon Naudain, Eli Klokkenga, Ruthie Ruhl, Colleen Martin, Otto Rentschler, Ed Whitcomb, Jr., and Kevin Bateman.

Welcome/Call to Order: Chairman Struebing called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Previous Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the previous meeting minutes was made by Craig Hall and seconded by Mary Brown. Motion was approved.

Financial Report: Miller stated that she was currently working on the FY20 budget with no noteworthy differences from the previous year. She also reminded them that it was once again time for the Council's annual agreement. She explained that money donated to the Unit by the community throughout the year to support Extension programming can be applied to our budget in the form of an agreement from the Extension Council. This agreement is signed by the Council chairman. A motion was made by Hall and seconded by Ruben authorizing the Chairman to sign the 2020 agreement Extension Council agreement. The motion was approved.

Staffing Update: Miller stated that the Sangamon County Program Coordinator position should be posted online soon. Campus had posted the position a few weeks ago, but it had been assigned the wrong classification, so it had to be taken down. The job opening should be up again any day now for people to apply.

Miller also gave an update on Annette Reese, the new metro area 4-H educator. She stated that she was working through all of the training. Annette is hoping to start delivering some programming this summer.

Program Updates: Miller announced that the Unit tour by the new Associate Dean of Extension, Dr. Shelly Nickols-Richardson, on February 1 was a success and went very well. She was able to see several Extension programs in action with stops in Springfield and Lincoln and met several volunteers from the Unit.

Miller also announced that the Logan office has a new furnace that has been installed and thank the Logan County Fair Association, who owns the building, for their prompt care and attention the matter. Miller also announced that an AED device had been purchased for the Logan office in case of a medical emergency. She mentioned that there was one in the Springfield office and that she was talking with the owners of the Menard office about getting one there as well.

Miller also mentioned that campus was working to update the design of Unit websites and hopes to have it completed soon. She noted that this will be a great improvement over the current site. It should be much more user friendly for visitors to find information and for staff to maintain.

Miller then handed out quarterly reports that had been compiled by Unit programming staff to the council members.

Chairman Struebing shared information about the native tree planting project he and the Master Naturalist were working on at Kickapoo Park in Lincoln. He stated that about 800 trees will be planted. Chuck Ruben mentioned that the Mt. Pulaski Economic Development group had been awarded a substantial local foods development grant from the USDA.

Legislative Update – HB 2264 <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB2264/2019>

Miller presented information about Illinois State HB2264 which would change the language that authorizes the State of Illinois to provide matching funds to Extension from “may” to “shall”. Extension volunteers and supporters are encouraged to reach out to their local state legislators in support of HB2264 and if they serve in the legislature, to sign on as sponsor. Miller explained that this week is critical.

Reaching New Audiences/Meeting Community Need: Miller mentioned that as a result of recent professional development about diversity and inclusivity the Unit staff and undertaken, that the staff were forming a committee to examine issues related to diversity and inclusivity and how we can better reach new and underserved audiences and help meet their programming needs.

Future Meetings: A reminder of the future meeting dates, locations and times was announced. They are Monday, June 17 – Springfield Extension Office at 7 PM, and Tuesday, September 24 – Logan Extension Office at 7 PM.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Brown and seconded by Daniel Kloppe. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.