

The May 2019 Extension Council meeting was called to order by Nancy Derby at 6:31 p.m at the Piatt County Extension Office. Nancy asked the Council members and staff to introduce themselves.

Those present: Nancy Derby, Janell Baum-Thomas, Stephanie Block, Jake Franklin, Matthew Franklin, Trinity Mata, Dave Mills, Kristi Pyatt, Katie Sellmeyer, Jennifer Suckow and David White.

Staff present: Doug Harlan, Jamie Boas, Doug Gucker, Trinity Johnson, Staci Coussens and Caitlin Mellendorf.

There were no public attendees or comments.

Minutes from the March 2019 Extension Council meeting were presented. Janell Baum-Thomas made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Matthew Franklin seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Fiscal Update: Doug provided the Council with an update regarding the Unit's 2019 budget. He stated that the Unit had received \$400,000 in FY 2018 County Board Match from the State of Illinois. He stated that Extension had not had any updates regarding the FY 2019 County Board Match funds. Doug told the Council that the Unit is still well funded and under budget in terms of expenses for the year.

Doug went over the Unit's and County's Income and Expense reports. He told the Council that the balance of our income would be showing up in the May and June Income reports. He also stated that the Unit's expenses would increase significantly as the fiscal year closes out and expenses are finally posted in the fiscal system. Jennifer Suckow asked what the Unit's history was in regards to expenses over the last several years. Doug told her and the council that during his tenure the Unit had not been over budget in terms of expenses. He attributed this fact to his entrepreneurial staff.

The Council had an extensive discussion regarding plans and funding for the combined Unit 4H Fair. Katie Sellmeyer had several questions regarding funding support for the DeWitt County 4H Fair Board. Doug explained that he had provided the DeWitt 4H Fair Board with \$7500 this year. He had purchased supplies for the new addition to the beef barn. Doug asked that if anyone from DeWitt County was questioning Macon or Piatt County's support in terms of funding that they be told they should call Doug directly. Jennifer Suckow was concerned regarding the requirement for the poultry and rabbits to stay at the 4H Fair for the three days of the 4H instead of a one day show. Doug explained that the DeWitt Fair had always been a three day show. The Show Committee wanted to have the animals stay in order for other exhibitors and the public could view the poultry and rabbits. Jennifer said that her son were not showing because of this requirement and the potential danger from heat to the animals. Doug assured her

that if the temperature were that high, he would release the animals. He told the Council that the requirement to have poultry and rabbits stay all three days would be reviewed.

Jennifer Suckow also asked about a rumor she had heard that the 4H Community Club program was being phased out. Doug told the Council that this was not true. However, he did state that the growth in 4H in our Unit was not in our Community Club program, but in our school programs. Doug said that through the schools 4H programs in the Unit that a complete new audience of 4H'ers was being reached. Jennifer also asked why the other schools in Macon County – non-Decatur District 61 schools – were not being targeted for 4H programming. Doug explained that Jenny Bates-Marchkey, a Macon County 4H EPC, was in fact assigned to work with Macon County non-Decatur school district schools regarding 4H programming.

Personnel Update: Doug told the Council that two clerical positions had been filled – Laura Crider as a replacement for the retiring Diane Dowd in Macon and Stacy Nichols as a replacement for Lindsey Burden in DeWitt. He stated that the Unit was in the process of hiring two 4H EPCs for the DeWitt and Piatt 4H programs. Janell Baum-Thomas asked in both EPCs would be working in Piatt County. Doug told the Council that one EPC would be assigned as the 4H Community Club EPC for Piatt County. The other EPC would be working in both DeWitt and Piatt Counties as the 4H Schools EPC. Doug told the Council that he was still waiting to be hired by the Civil Service Register for the Marketing EPC position. He also said that he had advertised to replace the third clerical position in Macon County. Doug told the Council that the Unit had had several resignations. Candice Hart, Unit Horticulture Educator, had accepted the State Master Gardener Coordinator position. Her last day is May 15th. Doug said that he had requested to rehire this position. Susan Houska, Piatt County 4H Community Worker, is moving out of state. Her last day is July 26th. Beth Allhands, Unit Horticulture EPC, is retiring. Her last day is July 11th. Chandani Kothari, SNAP-Ed EPC, is moving out of state. Her last day is May 28th. Finally, Doug told the Council that he was still planning to hire a Consumer Economics Educator this year.

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.

Program Updates:

Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator Doug Gucker presented the program highlight for the meeting. He made a short presentation regarding his efforts trapping insects as part of the U of I's efforts to identify trends of insect infestations affecting Agriculture in Illinois.

Jamie Boas shared that she was closing out a very successful year with the Blue Ridge School district. She presented the information provided in her written report. She also highlighted a joint three county teen event at the Decatur Indoor Sports Center. Teens met here for a fun day of rock climbing and nerf battles.

Caitlin Mellendorf presented her written report. She program updates regarding her after-school cooking classes and cooking videos.

Staci Coussens shared highlights of her programs. She discussed her work at several area food pantries and her work on a grant targeting food pantries.

Trinity Johnson presented her report for Macon County 4H. She discussed her participation in the Farm Bureau's Agucation program. She told the Council that her efforts reach 600 youth with 4H information.

Doug thanked the following Council members for their service to the Extension Unit – Trinity Mata, Alida Graham and Audrie MaClain.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 7:44 PM.

Next meeting is September 9th at 6:00 p.m.at the Macon County Office.