

## Minutes

### University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties Tuesday, April 21, 2020, via Zoom.

#### **Roll Call:**

Present: Tyler Barrington, John Bowser, Barb Chiles, Kyle McEwen, Jill Milroy, Bob Mueller, Ryan Murphy, Sugandhi Sivakumar, Tim Wells

Others Present: Kristin Bogdonas, Jenny Garner Russell Medley, Jennifer Peterson, Martha Smith, Tayler Wheatley

**Public Comments:** Not Applicable.

#### **Previous Minutes:**

- The minutes of the last meeting on February 18, 2020 were approved as read on a motion by Bob Mueller and a seconded by Kyle McEwen. Motion carried.

#### **Fiscal Reports:**

- The Unit 7 Trust and Self Supporting accounts ending February 29, 2020 were provided in the packet for review. Unit cash reserves are at the desired 18 months.
- Extension received all of fiscal year 2019 in county board match funding from the state of Illinois.

#### **Council Report:**

- Bob Mueller thanked Russell Medley and Kyle McEwen for the information they provided from the Chamber that assist Stark County with a \$5,000 grant.
- Barb Chiles reported that long-time 4-Her Cheryl Hanks was one of nine youth to receive a national award.
- Kyle McEwen said the recent Mercer County Resource Round-up held on April 10 was successful in helping small businesses navigate COVID-19 funding. Business owners heard from Senator Chuck Weaver, Representative Dan Swanson, DCEO Lee Trotter, and Anne Frederichs with the Small Business Development Center.
- Tim reported Henry County would like to partner with Mercer County on a rural broadband grant, which has become increasingly important for rural communities facing COVID-19.

#### **Staff Programming Handout:**

- Reports from Kristin Bogdonas, Haley Haverback, Russell Medley, Jennifer Peterson, Martha Smith, and Tayler Wheatley are included in the council packets.
- The educators review Extension programming that has been developed and is underway as a result of COVID-19.
  - Kristin Bogdonas has worked on content for the Illinois Extension COVID-19 resource site including Building an Emergency Food Supply. She also organized the Nutrition and Wellness team's webinar series, Health at Home. She created a Virtual Wellness Challenge BINGO for the public to engage in healthy habits while at home.
  - Jennifer Peterson said 4-H has been working on keep youth engaged but not overwhelm them with too many activities since they are schooling from home. Our unit is doing a

weekly pledge challenge with the 4 H's (Head, Heart, Hands, Health) this month. Staff are preparing for both virtual and in-person fairs this summer.

- Tayler is working on SNAP-Ed email templates to offer education and outreach for partner agencies. She has developed a Quarantine Cook Off that has gained considerable attention.
- Martha Smith indicated it has been challenging to keep volunteers engaged. 45 Master Gardeners attended a Zoom meeting. Master Gardeners are planting a garden row this summer and donating it to a food pantry. The Hort Hotline is up and running through Facebook. An abundance of webinars are being offered and well attended.
- Haley Haverback said commercial agriculture field days are changing to a virtual format. She is also working on a soil health training curriculum and advanced conservation training.
- Russell Medley and the CED team have been working on gathering and compiling information on COVID-19; information changes every day and is often erroneous. The team is also looking at digitizing the community planning process. Russell is working with the Quad Cities COAD to assist communities with developing their recovery plan.

**Announcements:**

- One staff member has joined Unit 7. Mitchell Walker is an incoming SNAP-Ed community worker to support primarily Rock Island County.

**New Business:**

- The Henry, Mercer, and Stark County Federation accounts audit were approved on a motion made by Bob Mueller and seconded by Tim Wells.
- Bank signatories for the Mercer County Bank Orion in-and-out account were approved on a motion made by Kyle McEwen and seconded by Barb Chiles. Motion carried to approve these bank signatories: Jenny Garner, Martha Smith, Barb Chiles, Russell Medley, Kyle McEwen, Tracy Fowler-Pestle, and Teresa Kirwan.
- Conversation about the Unit 7 community needs assessment was tabled.
- The Unit 7 three-year civil rights review on May 19, 2020 has been rescheduled for spring 2021.
- Outgoing Council members Barb Chiles, Carlos Jimenez, Sughandi Sivakumar, and Tim Wells were thanked for the service.
- Council members were encouraged to submit their recommendations for new members for the upcoming fiscal year 2021.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Tim Wells and seconded by Bob Mueller that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenny Garner