

Minutes

University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties Tuesday, February 16, 2021, via Zoom.

Roll Call:

Present: John Bowser, Dave Dyer, Jared Johnson, Kyle McEwen, Jill Milroy, Bob Mueller,
Dawn Temple

Others Present: Kristin Bogdonas, Jenny Garner, Russell Medley, Jennifer Peterson

Public Comments: Not Applicable.

Previous Minutes:

- The minutes of the last meeting on October 20, 2020 were approved as read on a motion by Bob Mueller and a seconded by Jill Milroy. Motion carried.

Fiscal Report:

- The Unit 7 Trust and Self-Supporting accounts ending January 31, 2021 that represents fiscal year 2021 were provided in the packet for review.
- In-and-out accounts for Henry/Stark, Mercer, and Rock Island counties were reviewed. Premium payments to 4-H youth were disbursed in early January.

Council Report:

- Kyle McEwen reported that Mercer Better Together is working on a non-profit program and broadband initiative that involves CED Educator Russell Medley.
- Jill Milroy reported the YMCA has hosted Commit to Fit and Healthy Kids You in partnership with OSF Medical Center. SNAP-Ed Educator Tayler Wheatley is involved in these efforts. John Bowser thanked Jill for the great work she does for the community.
- John Bowser updated the group on the COVID-19 vaccination program.
- Dawn Temple reported Watershed Outreach Associate Rachel Curry is working with Rock Island County Soil & Water on a new Illinois EPA grant for Mill Creek on the lower Rock River. Another project Rachel Curry will be involved is a field day of bioreactor installation planned for August 2021. She further noted Extension has done a great of pivoting to provide alternate forms of programming.

Staff Programming Information:

- Reports from Kristin Bogdonas, Russell Medley, Jennifer Peterson, Martha Smith, and Tayler Wheatley are omitted from the council packets. Jenny Garner will distribute in a separate email to Council members and invited questions from any of the programming information provided. Staff continue to operate at a high level; they are doing great work to connect both virtually and through alternative means with the communities served by the unit.
- Martha Smith updated the Council on the upcoming Master Gardener fundraiser that involves purchasing from a variety of wreaths, centerpieces and swags with items shipped directly to the contributor. This project has been implemented to offset loss of the annual Plant Sale fundraiser.

Announcements:

- Rachel Curry introduced herself as the new Watershed Quality Outreach Associate. Her position will have coordination and program delivery responsibilities for the Mississippi Central/Henderson Creek Watershed and Lower Rock River Watershed which are both nitrogen priority watersheds as outlined in the Illinois Nutrient Management Plan. Rachel has a bachelors in environmental studies with minors in biology and economics and masters in soil science and environmental science Her research emphasis is in soil fertility and weed science with a focus on influence of crop rotations, terrain, and no tillage on multiple soil factors, such as soil nitrogen and carbon, as well as other agronomic factors including yield and weed species distribution.
- Carol Longley resigned her position on the Extension Unit 7 Advisory Council as she now has a part time appointment with Extension through a grant from the Illinois Board of Education to provide continuing education for school meal staff. Consensus was to delay filling the position until next fiscal year with one more scheduled meeting remaining for current year.
- Jennifer Peterson reported that 4-H youth development school and after school programs are going very well. The community clubs are doing okay but the return on in-person meetings will be beneficial to those groups.
- Extension offices in the unit remain closed to foot traffic; however, the plan is to open offices for the summer months. In-person 4-H shows with restrictions is also planned for the summer.

New Business:

- The Council is invited to the Virtual Roadshow presentation on Tuesday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to noon, via Zoom. Presenters from Extension Administration include Dr. Shelly Nickols Richardson, Tony Franklin, Harry Clore, and Sam Koon. Please mark your calendars. The Zoom invitation has been forwarded and details will be provided as the date draws nearer.
- Russell Medley showed the Quad Cities Health and Human Services Economic Value Consortium (QCHSEVC) screencast with the voiceover provided by Kyle McEwen. The focus of the consortium, co-facilitated by Iowa and Illinois Extension, is on workforce development issues on the business community and how HHS supports those efforts. The consortium is comprised of members from foundations, economic development, health and human services from Scott County IA and Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island counties.

Addendum to Minutes:

Perspectives were offered by Council members on the QCHSEVC presentation, with discussion to continue into the April 2021 meeting.

- The Social Determinants of Health model is familiar.
- Specific data about Return on Investment by the health and human services sector is informative.
- Comparison of healthcare to a computer system works well.
- The data illustrates the importance of workforce issues like transportation and healthcare.
- There is an awareness among municipalities about transportation, housing and childcare issues. The fact that childcare costs businesses \$4-\$9 was startling.
- Rural communities are challenged with transportation, substandard housing, childcare, and mental health issues.
- Rural communities are reliant on larger entities for crisis response.
- The data provides better understanding on what an emergency means like the pandemic.

- Municipalities deal with many of these issues, particularly with long term mental health care.
- Mental health involves many entities including the police force; many instances revolve around drug abuse with people trying to self-medicate.
- Disaster highlights other areas people access health and human services.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Jill Milroy and seconded by Bob Mueller that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Milroy