

MINUTES

**University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties
Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at Woodhull Town Hall or via Zoom.**

Roll Call:

Present: Catherine Bass, John Bowser, Barb Chiles, Dave Dyer, Logan Goerks, Kyle McEwen, Jill Milroy, Bob Mueller

Others Present: Kristin Bogdonas, Rachel Curry, Tayler Louscher, Jenny Garner, Russell Medley, Emily Swihart

Public Comments: Not Applicable.

Previous Minutes:

- The minutes of the last meeting on February 15, 2021, were approved as read on a motion by Bob Mueller and a seconded by Barb Chiles.

Educational Presentation:

Tayler Louscher gave a presentation on the Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Ed) on explained how efforts are interrelated where the educator works with agencies on policies, systems, and environment level, and community workers provide education directly to the agencies' SNAP eligible clients. This summer, staff will offer Illinois Junior Chef at 15 sites throughout the unit where youth learn to improve dietary attitudes and behaviors through learning hands-on cooking skills and MyPlate food group education. Tayler is working on a nutrition policy and ranking system that encourages Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry's guests to take "often use" foods. The food pantry allows their guests to shop for themselves which recognizes food dignity. She is also working with the City of Moline on creating a community growing space; the city is donating a space either near the Floreciente neighborhood or Logan Elementary School. A large-scale project involves developing recommendations for the River Bend Food Bank to expand culturally nutrition and relevant food and include in their strategic plan.

Fiscal Report:

- The Unit 7 Trust and Self-Supporting accounts ending March 31, 2022, were provided for review. Expenses are currently coming out of the unit's Smith Lever allocation.
- Balances of the Henry/Stark, Mercer, and Rock Island in-and-out accounts (checking) were provided to the Council.
- State funds for the county board match for quarters 3 and 4 of 2021 have been deposited into the unit Trust account.

Council Report:

- Bob Mueller is working with the Stark County 4-H Foundation to establish a 501c3 organization and locate a pro bono attorney.
- Kyle McEwen reported Mercer Better Together is holding an in-person job fair on May 14 to address the workforce gap. Council members followed by noting that CareerLink is expanding their mission.
- Dave Dyer reported the City of Galva is doing business expansion that will result in 40 new employees.

- Kyle McEwen mentioned the broadband planning committee that covers six counties including Mercer County that best positions these counties to receive outside funding.

Staff Programming Information:

- Dave Dyer noted the staff are getting an amazing amount of work accomplished.
- Kyle McEwen invited the Council to review staff reports that covers the broad spectrum of working being done by Extension unit staff. He made mention of ECQC making its return, the upcoming Becoming an Outdoorswoman program, and the regional horse bowl and hippology context.
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Announcements:

- The unit is hiring extra help positions for the summer. Abby Sheffield will be joining us to assist with youth development activities; Isabel Buckrop and Amber Whitenburg will be assisting us with SNAP-Ed Illinois Junior Chef program.
- Jenny Garner thanked Kyle McEwen for his service as chair of the Council this past four years. Logan Goerks was recognized for his youth service; he will remain with the Council the next two years. Other outgoing Council members will receive their certificates via mail.
- New Council members are needed: two for Rock Island County, and one for Mercer County.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Bob Mueller and seconded by Dave Dyer that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Milroy