

MINUTES

University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at Woodhull Town Hall or via Zoom.

Roll Call:

Present: Catherine Bass, John Bowser, Barb Chiles, Dave Dyer, Logan Goerks, Megan Gray, Spencer Griffin, Emily Herricks, Janet Hill, Tara Mayhew, Jill Milroy, Bob Mueller, Nicholas Shillington

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

Public Comments: Not Applicable.

Previous Minutes:

- The minutes of the last meeting on April 19, 2022, were approved as read on a motion by Barb Chiles and seconded by Dave Dyer. Motion Carried.

Fiscal Report:

- The Unit 7 Trust and Self-Supporting accounts ending July 31, 2022, were provided for review. The fiscal year began July 1, 2022. The Trust balance is higher than normal because of multiple years of State funds for the county board match; in time, the excess will normalize. Allowable expenses are currently coming out of the unit's Smith Lever federal allocation.
- Balances of the Henry/Stark, Mercer, and Rock Island in-and-out accounts (checking) were provided to the Council.

Council Report:

- Bob Mueller asked Council members to review their contact information in the Council membership document. If there is a change, please provide that to Jenny Garner.
- Dave Dyer reported that Farm in the Park held on August 9 was great with record attendance. Farm in the Park is a family-friendly event with education activities, petting zoo, and a hotdog meal fundraiser. There is a band from Ireland in the park this evening.
- Jenny Garner is working towards a fund development partnership with the Stark County 4-H Foundation and Stark County Junior Fair Board to support 4-H youth development activities for the county.

Staff Programming Information:

- Bob Mueller invited the Council to review staff reports that covers the broad spectrum of working being done by Extension unit staff.
- Russell Medley spoke on his disaster planning integration toolkit grant-funded project. It merges disaster planning into communities' economic development plans. An intern from the University of Illinois Department of Regional and Urban Planning completed a literature review. She is now working with him to develop an online searchable database that serves as a project assessment tool. There will be close to 200 indicators at the county level. The project will be duplicated among Midwestern states and eventually nationwide.

- Kristin Bogdonas reported on the I Made That cooking education program, which is a collaborative effort with Jennifer Peterson and 4-H youth development. This has been an immensely popular program among youth. This year, the program is being held during the even months that began with baking yeast breads in January. October will be pumpkins since Illinois is the top-producing state of pumpkins. December will be winter wellness and holiday baking.
- Jennifer Peterson said 4-H shows during fairs went smoothly, and youth did well at State Fair in the general project area. Afterschool cooking programs for elementary and middle schools get underway headed into the fall months. Planning has begun for Juntos, which is a college and career readiness program for Hispanic youth and their parents.

Announcements:

- Kristen VanDeVelde's first day with Extension is today. She is an office support assistant and will work in the Milan and Viola offices. She comes to the Unit with a background in agriculture and 4-H youth development.
- The unit is hiring two SNAP-Ed community worker positions; there are 14 applicants who will test next week. Hiring of a SNAP-Ed program coordinator position is underway and should be posted to the job board shortly. If successful with the hiring process, these three positions should be in place sometime this fall.

New Business:

- Because the Extension Unit 7 Advisory Council is a public body, the Illinois Attorney General's Office requires Council members to complete Open Meetings Act-Online Training. Their training website has not been functioning because their system was hacked. A *Guide to the Open Meetings Act* with information was given to Council members who have not taken in the training in the past to read and review; please contact Jenny Garner via email (jsgarnr@illinois.edu) when you have completed this task.
- The University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employments, with a plan that is updated on an annual basis. More information can be found at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/global/eeo> . Members of the Advisory Council were asked to read and review the document.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Dave Dyer and seconded by Barb Chiles that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Milroy