

MINUTES

University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties Tuesday, February 15, 2022, via Zoom.

Roll Call:

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

Others Present: Kristin Bogdonas, Rachel Curry, Jenny Garner, Russell Medley, Jennifer Peterson, Emily Swihart

Public Comments: Not Applicable.

Previous Minutes:

- The minutes of the last meeting on October 19, 2021, were approved as read on a motion by Bob Mueller and a seconded by Barb Chiles.

Educational Presentation:

Russell Medley gave a presentation on the Disaster Planning Integration Toolkit, which is a grant-funded project through Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). The project involves creating a streamlined and integrated model for linking disaster planning and community and economic development planning in rural Illinois communities. The disaster cycle is continuous: → mitigate → prep → recovery → response →. EDEN awarded a fiscal increase to the grant to expand project reach to include some North Central Region states. The long-term goal to provide the toolkit nationally.

Fiscal Report:

- The Unit 7 Trust and Self-Supporting accounts ending January 31, 2022, were provided for review. The Self-Supporting fund has been spent down to under \$10,000.
- 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 1 and 2 of 2021 have been deposited into the unit Trust account.

Council Report:

- Dawn Temple asked for information to be shared: Rock Island Soil & Water Conservation District with working with McCala Crawford, Extension youth development program coordinator, to coordinate a spring tree planting project in Rock Island County. She is still in need of a site; the space must be public and at least 3 ½ acres to accommodate 25 oak trees. Jennifer Peterson explained that the project is a result of a Green Communities grant, which went to all four counties served by the unit. The trees will arrive the end of March and 4-H youth will plant the trees in early April.
- Jill Milroy shared that the YMCA is partnering again with OSF Medical Center, Illinois Extension, and Regional Media to offer Commit to Fit to boost weight loss. Their Healthy Kids U promotes healthy living with an educational component, and she is thinking of an online component that Extension may be able to offer/support. Discussion was held about the “I Made That” project that could possibly be used as a model; this was a partnership between Kristin Bogdonas and Jennifer Peterson where youth gained confidence in the kitchen, learned about safe food

practices, and developed skills related to 4-H food projects. SNAP-Ed calendars also have recipes and is connected with a Kewanee after school program.

Staff Programming Information:

- Kyle McEwen invited the Council to review staff reports that covers the broad spectrum of working being done by Extension unit staff.
- Emily Swihart provided information on the upcoming Winter Wellness event scheduled for Saturday, February 26, at Black Hawk State Park. Further, the Spring Series will be held virtually over two nights with three presentations each evening. These are scheduled for April along with a display by Master Gardeners at the Quad Cities Flower and Garden Show.
- Russell Medley said Extension is working with Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity on broadband expansion and encouraged Henry and Stark County to look at expanding their grants as Mercer County has done.
- Tayler Louscher reported SNAP-Ed is hosting a Hunger in Health on March 9 that includes food handlers training, community collaboration and food dignity.

Announcements:

- None.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Bob Mueller and seconded by Jill Milroy that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Milroy