

November Extension Council Meeting

Nov 14, 2022

Zoom Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm via Zoom by Cassie Crouch- Chairman

Welcomes were made and Introduction of any new committee members. No visitors were present on the Zoom meeting.

Sonya Anthony	Present
Brooks Brown	Present
Angi Carter	
Cassie Crouch	Present
Taylor Crouch	Present
Kathi Drozs	Present
Jerry Edwards	
April Gum	
Normal Jones	
Merry Lanker	Present
Megan Murphy	Present
Tayisha Nelson	
Mike Randall	Present
Cheryl Sample	
Ray Spencer	Present

No Public Comments

Minutes from Sept meeting were presented to the Council Motioned by Jerry Edwards 2nd Ray Spencer.

Discussion on the Minutes. Motion passes

Fiscal Report presented by Jamie Boas. Motioned by Sonya Anthony 2nd by Mike Randall

Discussion on the Fiscal Report

Question about the \$2789.27 capitol item purchases from Piatt County Office. Explained that was for new furniture for a office worker - got an ergonomic desk set up. Motion Passes

### Personnel Update

Macon County did hire a Horticulture EPC - Whitney Allison and she started Oct 17, 2022, She has been hitting the ground running and adjusting to the new position

Macon County still has a vacancy regarding the 4-H EPC from when Jenna Ward left us. Suspected that we will have a candidate approved by the next meeting.

Marketing Question presented by Jamie Boas

### Reaching Underserved Audiences and Programming

Educators hosted breakout rooms that allowed for more small group conversations and problem solving. Allowed members of the council to voice their concerns and highlight needs in a smaller setting. Improved feedback and communication. Heard many times that the set times for breakout rooms was good but could have been a couple minutes longer.

\*Notes on each breakout session – have been provided by each educator.

### **Breakout Sessions with ANR/Horticulture**

From our three breakouts, the following possible informed interview contacts were given to us:

- Farm Bureaus in the 3 counties
- Monticello Rotary
- Knights of Columbus
- Tim Smith, owner of Crop Smith
- The Savanna Institute
- IDEA Farm Network
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the 3 counties
- UDSA, Farm Service Agency offices in the 3 counties
- Scott Davidson, Ag Educator, DPS, Eisenhower HS
- Jacklyn Meyers, Blue Ridge HS FFA
- Importance of speaking to someone about natural area needs

### **Breakout Sessions with 4-H**

Question: Who is addressing this issue in your community?

Noticed great programming at YMCS – sports related

Not a lot in Maroa – turnover at the Maroa Library – used to have book reading club

Boy Scouts group

Girl Scouts

Venture crew (like Boy Scouts – Christian-based)

The Vault in Clinton

Field trips in DPS – Simp has taken groups to Chicago, Millikin, Springfield (Merry said she'd check on the funding)  
FFA

High School at Monticello has a great entrepreneurship program – Lisa Shephard

Question Who do you believe are underserved audiences or unmet needs if we were to address this issue locally?

– Kids who are not able to drive and who don't have parents to take them to activities. Check on PiattTran – subsidized costs...

– DPS – the biggest trouble is transportation

### **Breakout Sessions with Nutrition and Wellness and SNAP-Ed**

1. Who is addressing this issue in your community? (could be a group, a person, agency, business, etc.)

Health classes

Public Health Department

Megan Murphey: focus on collective impact framework issue. Would like to speak with us

United Methodist church in Mansfield has a food pantry

Food Pantries in Clinton & Farmers City

Hospital in Clinton

Kirby Hospital

Community garden in Monticello donates

- a. Follow up: Where?
- b. Follow up: Do you know a specific person who works or volunteers at the agency/business/group?
2. Who do you believe are underserved audiences or unmet needs if we were to address this issue locally?

Immigrant population in DeWitt

Some schools have cut their health programs

Monticello/ Piatt Co food pantry visitors could benefit more education. They don't know how to use fresh produce

Monticello Community Garden donates

- a. Follow up: Where are places we should target?

Schools are best places to meet students- Megan

Program Updates: (update papers that were mailed to committee members) Excellent

Small farm - Doug Gucker - discussed fall involvement and outreach Master Naturalists meetings happening in the winter months.

Dewitt & Piatt County 4-H - Jamie Boas - excellent participation and startup of the new year. Programming continuing in Farmers City and Monticello

Macon County 4-H - Ben Steele - great turn out at events like the Chess league and cooking sessions. Sees those continuing to grow. Looking forward to visiting club meetings.

Horticulture - Sarah Vogel - Highlighted the recent success of Master Gardeners, but at the same time highlighted the concern of the aging volunteer base and the focus on education over actual maintenance gardening. We need to be aware and concerned about creating real educational opportunities for our members. Announced State Awards that were received on behalf of the Master Gardeners Program - Had three recognized at State Conference

Nutrition and Wellness - Caitlin Mellendorf - highlighted the importance of the Illinois Deer Donation program and is going to focus on Infant and Child Feeding Education Day. She will come back and report more.

Snap Ed - Louise Hyneman - highlighted the focus in Old Kings Orchard and improvements there. Also highlighted influence in Decatur Schools. Exciting to see Eisenhower receive a large grant for the recipe development event going on. They applied through ISBE and received. They have reached out to ask for support and help and it looks like they are willing to create connections there. Louise will also go into administration over the winter and talk about how Snap Ed could be impactful in the larger student body. Looking for Food Banks to connect with next in Dewitt and Piatt Counties to increase the use of garden produce and help educate about recipe and meal options with them.

Farm Progress Show Topic brought up by the council members to the Unit leader.

Asking about involvement beyond food stand and how we could best highlight MPD Unit 4-H.

Several talked about the interest but also discussed the excellent coverage that University of Illinois had for the 4-H programming in their tent. The stickers that highlighted 4-H Alumni and the 4-H Alumni program. Council highlighted that if we were to get shirts made again - maybe we could highlight or have a QR code on the shirt for help with advertisement for our programs.

Motion to Adjourn 7:55pm Mike Randall 2nd by Ray Spencer - Motion Passes