



Present:

Council Members: Janice Blanchette, Sal Garza, Patsy Hirsch, Ruby Lingle, Lee Maki, Brian Mueller, Carolina Schottland, Reginald Summerrise, Mark Ward, Jeff White, Linda White

Absent: Kathleen Piatt, Brent Schorfheide, Tim Wells

Extension Leadership Team: Dennis Bowman, Willene Buffett, Travis Burke, Harry Clore, Amanda Cole, Lisa Diaz, James Hazzard, Shibu Kar, Jennifer McCaffrey, Janice McCoy, Shelly Nickols-Richardson, Anne Silvis, Amanda Taylor, Margarita Teran-Garcia, Steve Wald, Beth Welbes

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sal Garza at 9:00 a.m. with roll call taken and those present noted above. Brief self-introductions were made. Shelly thanked the group for their service as volunteers on the Council. The February 15, 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed with a motion made by Janice Blanchette to accept as distributed. Patsy Hirsch seconded to accept the minutes and the motion was approved.

Sal asked for any feedback as far as the minutes. Jeff White shared that it was agreed that the minutes would be available within 30 days for review. Sal shared that timing in receipt of the minutes is important and that minutes should be sent to members for review within 30 days of the meeting. Likewise, any amendments/suggested changes to the minutes need to be returned within 30 days after receipt. Sal will visit further with Amanda Cole.

Public Comments

Amanda Cole reported that there were no public comments.

Directors Update – Shelly Nickols-Richardson

Shelly again thanked the Council for their service, time and efforts. She shared that there have been personnel changes in the College. She shared that Kim Kidwell, former Dean, is now in the Chancellor's office serving as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives. Shelly mentioned that Kim has been an advocate for Extension and believes that she will continue to do so. Dr. German Bollero, Associate Dean for Research, will serve as Interim Dean of the College of ACES. He has been a part of the College for over 25 years. The Provost will begin a search process in the fall seeking input for candidates for filling the Dean's position. If there is interest in serving as an external voice, let Shelly know or send a note to Andreas Cangelaris. It is anticipated that the process will take approximately one year. Shelly shared that Chancellor Jones serves on the National 4-H Council.

There have also been changes within Extension due to the staff voluntary retirement program - Associate Director, Field operations (Tony Franklin), Region 1 Director (Joe Toman), Region 2 Director (Ryan Hobson), Region 3 Director (Julie Ritchey). Interim Leaders have been appointed and Shelly thanked those serving in those roles. Extension will continue to focus on its mission – extending knowledge and changing lives.

It was shared that with the vacancies, an opportunity presented itself to review the organization. Questions were asked about perceptions, etc. In July a survey was sent to all Extension staff, discussion occurred with the Extension Leadership Team, County Directors had a workshop session to discuss various models/options and how to move leadership and the organization forward. Excellent feedback was received. This was an opportunity to review the overall picture. To date the following has been done:

- Proposed model work has been done for considering pros and cons from central leadership. Reviewing to be certain that the mission can be fulfilled and that the workforce realizes and accomplishes the mission. Will be working on the model and have an update at the February meeting.
- Groundbreaking for the Doris Kelly Christopher Extension Center was celebrated on September 30. Money was donated with \$40 million to be used for construction of the facility which will be located in the Arboretum at Hazelwood/Lincoln intersection in Urbana, IL. \$5 million will be used for an endowment for facility maintenance.

This will allow all Extension and all programmatic areas and administrative areas to be together in one facility. 2024 or early 2025 is the anticipated grand opening.

- There are new personnel on the Extension Leadership Team. Shelly shared the history of the ANR Assistant Dean position and the process on how it was determined to add capacity. Dennis Bowman was thanked for his work in the interim position over two years. The ANR position content areas were segmented into two parts - Agriculture & Agribusiness (AAB) and Natural Resources, Environment and Energy (NREE). Travis Burke and Shibu Kar were hired to fill the positions. The Integrated Health Disparities program area was also added with Margarita Teran-Garcia leading the program. This position assists with allowing equity across the healthcare area in the underrepresented areas. Shelly asked each of the new Program Leaders to give impressions to date.
 - Shibu – Started August 1. Has met with team members and connected with specialists and is getting to know the system of IL-IN Sea Grant (IISG). Has connected with the Energy Education Council (EEC) on how to work better together and to build on the energy focus program. He shared that in the master naturalist area there is potential to provide more specific programming to private forest and land owners. There is also potential and conversations are being held on how to strengthen the elements with the Master Naturalist program. He is interested in bringing in train the trainer programs on climate control and is excited to begin building the program.
 - Travis –Envisions review of the various commodity groups, Extension faculty and educators and how to better serve IL through the advisory system and how to disseminate the information throughout the state. Using data that is gathered and setting up working groups to receive feedback. Input is encouraged and welcomed from ESAC members. Feels there is a bright future ahead with Chicago and other suburban areas in the area of urban ag and dissemination of information. Looking forward to working with staff in the urban areas.
 - Margarita Teran-Garcia – Explained that health is very important and there are many structure inequalities. This exposed the need to be better advocates for citizens in IL. Wants to connect service providers and encourage them to be more sensitive to the needs of the underserved population within the communities. Everyone deserves and needs the same quality and preventive healthcare. She is working to collaborate to move the needle for health equity and health justice for everyone and is happy to facilitate conversations in this area which includes mental, physical, and economical health. Feedback can be sent directly to her. Wants to increase partnerships and services.

Financial Update – Harry Clore

Extension finances are well at this period in time. Broad overviews with the various levels of funding were shared.

- Local – up 17% over FY2020
- State – Caught up with all funding through FY2020 with State, Cook County Initiative (CCI), Youth Development (YD), County Board Match (CBM) funding.
- Federal – Smith Lever (SL) remains steady. Ask for 2023 funding is higher than in the past.
- SNAP – increased over FY2020.
- Trust – local carry-over balances are up. Strategy has been to use SL and local funding and protect as much as possible due to being Extension specific funds. In a position to be able to leverage and get units into positive balances due to the receipt of state funding. Previously 2-3 units were close to deficit. Not the case in FY2020-2021
- Self-supporting – fee for service programs.
- Shared pie charts reflecting funding distribution for FY14 - FY21 and the expense breakdown for FY21. Explained that in the expense area, payroll is over 75%, lease is approximately 6.5%. Travel was reduced due to COVID. Grant overhead is increasing. For all grants received facilities and administrative costs go along with the grant thus more was incurred in that area. Sponsored sub-awards are major awards (i.e., IL-IN Sea Grant (IISG)) and funds were distributed to other universities. IISG is now in charge thus will be decreasing moving forward.
- CBM – All funds received 2018-2020, including the \$5,000,000 special allocation. FY2021 is in process.
- CCI – 2018- 2021 all funds received. Expecting FY2022 payment in early 2023.
- YD – 2018-2021 all funds received.

Investing in the Future

- Support was offered to ACES departments for various new faculty start-up and travel. In FY22, approximately \$1million was provided to ACES departments in continuing efforts to be a good partner.
- Central funds were provided to units for salary, lease, payroll, general use - \$5.3million. Majority is leases but also some support staff, including program coordinators to further efforts within the unit
- Collaboration Grants were established last year. This year opened to all campus units. 17 grants were distributed amounting to \$970,000. This was matching and included money from the Provost. \$550,000 distributed.

- Increased support to regional offices and program leaders to use SL funds to add staff and other operational needs to further the programming efforts.

Questions from Council members included:

- Jeff White inquired about the wording being changed from may to “shall be distributed” in the law. Harry responded in the affirmative that the wording has been changed. Per the request of Sal, Harry gave a brief summary of the process. Harry explained that the Governor prepared a budget and within the budget Extension has five line items – CBM, CCI, YD, 4-H premium, direct special allocation for Dixon Springs. After prepared the budget is moved forward to legislature for review and approval/disapproval. If approved it is then signed by the Governor. Since 2017 the numbers are almost always the same for the line items. Once the budget is approved, IDOA through various funding lines makes the request through the Comptroller for the payments. Payments were behind and are now being cleaned up and the vouchers released. Once released the payment should be made then paid accordingly. Sal added that recent legislation allowing the Comptroller’s office to have all state agencies to submit expenses (invoices) on a monthly basis rather than holding on to them provided the opportunity for the office to release funding on a more timely basis.
- Sal inquired about the financial perspective how the new center would be leveraged out to county leadership inviting them to feel a greater sense of being part of the campus with a dedicated center for Extension. Harry responded that staff are currently in 7 buildings and the new building will allow everyone to be together which allows an easier means for idea sharing, etc. There will also be opportunities to possibly host national meetings as there will be high-tech areas in the building. The building will also be a central focus point for the College of Business and the College of Engineering by inviting them to see Extension programs in action within the facility. There will also be live classrooms. There are no worries on operational costs due to funding being provided for the building as well as maintenance. Gained exposure could be huge.

Compost Ambassador Program – Amy DeLorenzo, Kathryn Periera

Kathryn and Amy are part of an interdisciplinary team for a composting initiative. Shared brief background of each of the members of the team. Concern is food waste. Building composting knowledge builds a culture of composting that can be used as a valuable resource rather than sending materials to a landfill which turns into methane gas. The culture is being done by outreach, education, demonstration and research. Amy shared about details of the programming and the future of the initiative. Outreach is communicating with partners to get the word out and co-hosting events with public partners. Youth partnerships have been made with Chicago Schools. Based on experiences the hope is to offer events of pumpkin smash in the fall. Offering pilot training program for compost ambassador program January-April 2022. Participants will be given option to attend field trip or participate in one of the events. Participants will be issued a passport rather than a certificate. The logic model for future plans was shared. Extension is a trustworthy compost resource to the City of Chicago. Outcomes are to have waste viewed as a resource, and that composting is socially acceptable. The initiative of creating a culture of composting in Illinois is starting.

Questions included:

- Patsy Hirsch inquired about the Sherman National Prairie and Garden. Amy responded that as of last year the final inspection had been passed for a compost structure and it will be moving forward. Amy was thanked for the input.
- Jeff White asked if there are plans to expand outward from Chicago. Amy responded in the affirmative indicating that they are starting in Chicago but feels it can be replicated throughout the area and the state. Areas have their own abilities to do composting. Kathryn mentioned that they have been working with other Local Foods Small Farms (LFSF) Extension Educators throughout the state and there is interest in pumpkin smash events. Shibu shared that he is working with LFSF educators and wants to focus not only on pumpkins but also other composting and is interested in facilitating and creating partnerships to measure emissions reduction. He stated that composting needs to include other Commercial Agriculture Educators and that there are many exciting opportunities. Kathryn responded that she would be interested in working with Shibu in the future.

Governmental Relations – Steve Wald

- Provided overview of function within Extension for access to elected officials, advocating for Extension, making certain that Extension in compliance with regulations/policies for the interactions, and planning and coordinating the contacts. Extension is structured to mobilize many other advocates, including all forms of Extension volunteers and partners. The role is to make the network functional by communicating information to all levels. Extension participates in COGER (Council on Governmental and External Relations) within the campus where information is

shared by the University. Federal issues are tracked, including SL funding, Farm Bill, SNAP-Ed, Broadband, IDOA funding, U of I funding and services provided throughout the state. Steve works with the Extension Communications team to prepare resources, such as one page hand-outs, impact reports, etc. The Teconomy report was completed and in 2019 the impact was reflected to be worth more than \$600 million. This year much time was spent working to getting the SL funding with letters being sent in May in support of the annual funding request. Community funded projects partnered with Public Engagement on the funding request to Congressman Bost for healthy heroes for healthy communities based in Southern Illinois. That program was not funded but the intent is to submit a request every year. Other topics worked on include:

- Worked in getting nomination for Shelly to serve on the Urban Ag Advisory Committee being established by USDA.
- Advocacy at the county level with County Boards. Assisted three units by working with Harry and County Directors to make case with County Boards in relation to their funding.
- Extension has been connected to many webinars related to urban agriculture. Proposal was submitted for urban ag under COVID funding. Sees urban ag a growing area for Extension and it continues to be a priority.
- Involved with Broadband (American Connection Project). Four new broadband interns have been placed within the state.
- Illini Scholars have been placed for the second year through the Extension Public Engagement Connection Center. Recent graduates interested in public engagement are partnered and placed within agencies such as the Legislative Black Caucus and Legislative Hispanic Caucus.
- Farm Progress Show – Extension was one-half of the ACES tent where many legislators were hosted. The Farm Stress Initiative was announced – telephone/internet access for farmers as well as farmer/rancher mental health.
- Yearly and upcoming events include IL Ag Legislative Roundtable, CARET (Council for Ag Research, Extension and Teaching), IL Ag Legislative Day in the spring, PILD, 4-H Legislative Connection, Ag Day at IL State Fair.

In the upcoming year the hope is to have ESAC involved in the following activities:

1. Three Springfield drop-in days (January/February/March). The plan is to have ESAC, Extension educator teams, and program leaders meeting with legislators to help keep Extension visible and to discuss the budget. Steve will work with ESAC leadership and Extension colleagues on dates, etc.
2. Office of Governmental Relations – IL Connection is an advocacy network. When signing up throughout the year will be invited to participate in various activities within the network. Shared the registration site – there is a choice for 4-H/Illinois Extension.
3. Extension Partners – contact Jeanne Harland (jharland@mymctc.net) to sign up. Cost is \$35. Cost of membership supports an active group working independently but in support of Extension.

Sal will visit with Steve regarding the April PILD meeting.

FCS – Jennifer McCaffrey

FCS concluded an exercise for strategic intent process with the goal being review of the FCS program area and to cast a vision for the next 3-5 years. Jennifer shared the strategic intent – refreshing the mission. Her team focus is on food, family, finance and health. FCS is configured of Consumer Economics, Family Life, Nutrition and Wellness, INEP (SNAP-Ed), and EFNEP staff. Much funding comes from grants for nutrition education. Of the five Extension main focus areas (community, economy, food, health, environment), health and food are the main focus. Emerging issues and topics were shared: pain management, chronic disease prevention (substance abuse), role of technology in wellness and rural health. Two new faculty were hired who are reviewing substance abuse/pain management from different angles. Extension shares information by providing training for professionals and the Illinois workforce. FCS partnered with all the food pantries and food banks across the state. Audiences are not just at the community level but beyond. Works in multi-level areas where parents and children are influenced. Important to look at Extension and the mission to do work at both local, regional and statewide.

Goals developed for the next 3-5 years include:

- How FCS influences key audiences and partners and ensures an understanding across Extension of how and where FCS reaches them.
- Work collaborative as a program area for reaching audiences/partners across the local and statewide landscape. Pulling program areas and working together in how to reach various audiences.

Some results this past year:

- Due to the Pandemic had to move education from in-person to on-line and concentrated on how to do better. Delivered 177 on-line sessions for statewide audiences. Almost 50,000 registered, and approx. 20,000 joined live. Launched 50 new resources that were pandemic specific (health, well-being, budgeting).
- SNAP-Ed is larger program in FCS and major focus if food access. A map was created allowing individuals to input their address and it would show available food resources; farmers can add their information where individuals can get their excess food.
- Partnered with food pantries. Signed up all 12 food pantries in IL in setting up a food policy and how they are addressing food insecurity and food quality. Have been recognized by Farm Bureau on how to get large farm food into the food bank system.
- Was able to host Food Summit in Southern Illinois and is looking to host two additional in Central Illinois and Southern Illinois in 2022.

Upcoming:

- Grants received for brain health – partnering with UIC
- Aging partnerships
- New website created – Council was encouraged to view the website and follow it for additional information.

Jennifer’s ESAC call to action was that they **read** social media and fact sheets, **watch** videos/snippets/on-line webinars and **engage** in in-person classes. They were also encouraged to assist in promoting all the opportunities across their respective communities and to let people know that Extension is available. Everyone can be connected via the website. Help promote all the opportunities across their communities and that Extension is available. All can be connected via the website.

4-H Youth Development – Lisa Diaz

Lisa shared that during COVID many peer states canceled programming but Illinois did not and over 400 events were moved to a virtual platform. The alumni and volunteer network allowed the youth to have the personal touch. Highlights:

- This summer returned to in-person activities with over 2,700 youth exhibitors showing over the course of three days. Other in-person events are also being held such as state shoots with some delegations representing at the national competition in the fall.
- Partnered with innovation and technology to organize steam festival showcasing science and technology across the state. 4-H was highlighted with robotics demonstrations and drone racing.
- Hosted first E-sports competition for youth across the state.
- National 4-H week is being kicked off this week and is being held the first full week in October. The national theme is “Finding Your Spark” with a goal to create a platform for others to share and generate excitement.
- Youth in Action – 4-H is about growing leaders and a variety of leadership opportunities are provided. This program identifies four young people nationally through a competitive competition. Illinois had a winner last year and again this year.
- Prioritized diversity, equity, inclusion access (DEIA) website. IL 4-H DEIA task force will be meeting at 4-H Camp to make a strategic plan for the upcoming years.
- A flyer on grand challenges - community, economy, environment, food and health was sent to the Council prior to this meeting. This relates to supporting strong and resilient youth with the goal of positioning youth in places where they can be influencers. Lisa shared that if work is being done in the local community to address an issue to think about the youth.
- 4-H Alumni Manager position was created. An endowment was created to identify an individual whose charge is to identify 4-H alumni and bring them to a pathway of communication. The first year the network used to invite volunteers to assist in judging events that went virtual.
- New communications manager hired.
- News and stories can be followed on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

CED – Anne Silvis

Anne shared the make-up of the CED team. With the three regional specialists there is access for the area of expertise throughout the state. The NCRCD impact report (shared with the group via hand-out) is a summary for CED across the region (12 states including IL) and the information is also shared nationally. Information is shared to show the scope of the work. IL works with DCEO to assist with plans. Zach Kennedy – specialist housed on campus. Zach Kennedy is an on-campus specialist who worked with IDOA to increase participation in the census count. Zack will be sharing

background on the census, insight into the demographic changes/shifts within IL and what the data means, how to access, how to use, etc.

Census Data – Zach Kennedy:

Shared about the 2020 Illinois Census by population and demographics. Population trends were shown. Illinois had a population change 2010-2020 with a loss of 18,124 people. Lost congressional seat but there was a risk of losing two. 2020 population was 12,812,508. County population was shown based upon size. IL is increasing in diversity. Population counts by race were compared and ethnicity population (Hispanic vs. non-Hispanic) with changes reflected. Showed a break-down of rural and urban counties outside the Chicago area followed by the Chicago metropolitan area. With the release schedule of April 21, census apportionment results were received; redistricting data summary was received in September, the demographic profile will tentatively be received in 2022 and demographic and housing characteristics file (DHC) will be released in 2022. An explanation was given about The American Community Survey and it being a rolling-based data collection. To access census data: data.census.gov, 2020 census demographic data map viewer. Any questions can be directed to Zach via email at Zkenned2@illinois.edu

Sal inquired about the trends and worker shortage even prior to the pandemic and not having growth streaming in. He inquired how an impact trend can be made. Zach responded that international migration is being welcomed as are pools of labor. Difficulty is retaining youth in rural areas. An emphasis needs to focus on attracting youth in those areas. The CED Team is reviewing the issue areas. Difficulty is retaining youth

Communications/IT – James Hazzard

Communications

James shared an audio presentation prepared by Judy Bingman.

- Groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Extension gift building with funding provided by Doris Kelley Christopher.
- People seek brands that will help them be loved and admired and to enrich their lives. Extension exists to help people solve problems. Shared examples (Freeze Alert and When Should I plant, Not all Apples are the Same, Jumping Worms and Blossom End Rot) of the reach of Extension on social media. Press releases have increased - in 2019 there were 91 and in March 2020 there were 530 posted with the most popular being whether or not to plug in an electric vehicle during a storm. Shared the other five top press releases. Blogs have received more than 550,000 reviews in 2021. Readers are also better engaged on the website with page views increasing. Field staff are trained in various topics. Currently working with faculty and Extension Specialists on publications and merchandise is being restocked. Question was raised about transcription and recording of meetings. James responded that yes when in a session a recording can be requested by the host. Sal indicated that minutes must be constructed for public viewing.

IT – James Hazzard

- Shared the make-up of staffing for the IT Team consisting of three in web development, six in tech services and seven on the help desk
- Shared 2021 successes:
 - The learning management system Moodle will soon be one year in operation. This is the system that can be used anywhere there is internet access to take an on-line course. Moodle was built for Extension by Extension. In the first year over 13,500 users signed up. Expectation is that it will continue to grow. Almost all existing courses have been migrated with 85 now contained within the system.
 - Drupal Ecosystem is the content management system for Extension websites. Phase 1 for language translation has been added including both French and Spanish. Google and search boxes will be easier. Newsletter upgrade will be released in the next month or so. Newsletters will go through the Campus plus system. Data integrations – 4-H will be the first. Various data types will be able to go into other Drupal Systems.
 - The accessibility policy for Extension was drafted and adopted. Adoption will be formalized in February 2022.
- Challenges: Staffing, hardware, consolidation/integration
 - Web development manager and tech services manager positions have been refilled. Two web positions and an IT analyst position needs to be filled.
 - Help desk requests have been up – 4,775 tickets.
 - A team retreat has not been held in two years.
 - There is a hardware chip shortage. An inventory dashboard was created to see Extension hardware at a glance and determine projections in advance.

- Consolidation/integration – Some systems, i.e., Zoom, have built-in registration for programs that don't work with the Extension system thus staff are unable to get important data needed for impact reporting.
- The help desk system will soon be replaced with TeamDynamix and staff will be moved to that platform. Adopting campus platforms and solutions has been encouraged. There are challenges and it is important for Extension to be involved in discussions when software is reviewed.
- In 2022, Skype (unified communications) will be migrating to MS Teams. Hoping to roll out system-wide in January or February.
- Windows 11 – coming out tomorrow (TPM 2.0 required for hardware encryption). Many machines not equipped.
- Starlink ISP – earth/orbit satellite network in currently in beta testing. Will disrupt broadband space.

Dicamba Drift – Chris Evans, Aaron Hager, Richard Hentschel

Patsy Hirsch shared a PowerPoint presentation of her yard and the effects of drifting herbicides (specifically 2,4-D and dicamba). Over the past four years, the family has experienced deterioration from 2,4-D and dicamba drift on woodland on her property and surrounding properties. She requests that Extension and those in the know provide education.

Chris Evans explained that the information in the detailed presentation is not uncommon and that over the last few years he's heard from a number of individuals. He mentioned that this is typically seen in trees and forested areas near fields and feels it is a concern for forest health throughout the state. It is more widespread than localized. Has been working with IDNR and IDOA to try and address from a regulatory standpoint. Richard Hentschel shared that he has visited Patsy's yard several times over the past few years and has witnessed the damage caused each year. He explained that continued exposure causes overall decline in health of the plants. These issues are becoming more noticeable and the problem it is not improving. Aaron Hager indicated that the issue of off-target herbicide movement has been dealt with in Illinois and other states for decades. Technology for dicamba came in the marketplace in 2017. Request of soybean acres was requested from them. Changes have been made to product labels which have not reduced the instance of off-target movement. Last November EPA issued new labels for the products – a five-year label was issued. Where data are available averaged between 5-10 dicamba complaints within the state. There were over 700 complaints in 2019. Temperature restriction has been given – no spray on days if temps are over 85 degrees. He feels this is an issue that should not be overlooked. Following presentation and discussion, there was a time for questions and answers as noted.

- Question – If there is damage caused to plants due to the incurring drift, why can the product still be used?
Aaron Hager responded that EPA is responsible for reviewing safety of the product. Dicamba has not changed since the 1960's. Formulations for soybean has changed. One has a salt different to enhance/absorb into the vegetation. When registered – looked at volatility. After receiving registration only two field evaluations went into the registration package. Other was in a greenhouse setting. Has known for decades that those human done experiences are not the same as what happens in field experiences. Many other variables are not known. Volatility can take place up to four days after application. It is not always the farmer, it may be a facility that is hired to make the application. The warmer the temperature, the more the volatility.
- Question – What are the next reasonable steps to take or what steps are being taken now? Patsy responded that the ask of Extension is to learn and once learned it can become part of the solution. She mentioned that Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists are not aware of the situation and suggests a special training program. Additionally, lawns should be part of the conversation as the product is also applied to lawns. Sal commented that Extension has subject matter experts and pushing education out at the various stages is important, not only to Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists but also to the general populace and it is important to share why the practice is unhealthy. Hopefully this will help individuals understand the problem so that they don't add to the problem. Chris Evans shared that Extension offers the pesticide safety education program and drift reduction strategies have been upgraded and that there is pilot program in Southwestern Illinois where there's been much impact on the trees and Master Naturalists have been collecting observational data. He believes that using citizen scientists might a useful project.
- Question – Patsy asked Shelly for input/ideas on thoughts of engaging Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists in the knowledge of being able to share this information much like disease/pests through their training. Shelly responded that the desire is to give opportunities to share more fully and express concerns on what has been seen over time and feels that brining about awareness and education is a piece of what Extension offers. There are many pieces that go along with the issue and this is the first step towards recognition and awareness. This could be a consideration for Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Programming.

- Statement - Aaron shared that he participated in a conference call with US EPA and there is a new director of the agency. He feels that there appears to be heightened awareness of instances of off-target movement and that when the new five year labels were added additional steps were added that applicators have to follow. 1) required every application to include additional volatility agents with the materials. EPA was interested to learn whether the step and other new steps implemented. It did not change. Numbers from the state increased. EPA is open to input/receptive to off-target movement. Feels EPA administration would be interested in the information.

Patsy shared that Three Rivers Network has provided some of the information in her presentation and asked that it be shared. Amanda will send Patsy's presentation to the group after the meeting including the future shadeless summer document. Patsy thanked the group for listening and believes that if more come together that a difference can be made.

ESAC Business – Sal Garza

Sal thanked everyone who has shared and participated in the meeting today.

- New Council members will be coming on board and it is important to increase participation as there is additional value in the conversations.
- Asked Council members about dates for meetings and for feedback on meeting before or after rather than on a national holiday. Consensus was that either is fine.
- Patsy shared that her Extension unit will have seven master composters.
- Sal messaged Shelly informing her that he is volunteering to be part of the search committee for the ACES Dean. He feels it is important that ESAC participate in those activities and be a part of the overall team rather than just a team that meets twice a year.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 7. Virtual or in-person is yet to be determined.
- PILD conference will be held in April. If interested in participating, let Sal know. He encouraged participation and to connect with Reginald.

Sal again thanked the group and wished everyone well and thanked Extension for all the work accomplished on a daily basis. He is available via email or phone. Feel free to contact him with suggestions for improvements on how to better collaborate.

There being no further business, Sal adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

February 7, 2022 – Location to be determined

October 3, 2022 – Location to be determined