

DeWitt Macon Piatt Counties- Unit 17 Extension Council Meeting

September 12, 2022

The September 12, 2022, Unit 17 Extension Council meeting was held in person at the Macon County Extension office as well as via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Jamie Boas at 6:31p.m.

Members present at the meeting: Sonya Anthony, Kathi Drozs, Norman Jones, Jerry Edwards, Mike Randall, Cassie Crouch, Taylor Crouch, Cheryl Sample, Angi Carter (Zoom), Megan Murphy (Zoom), Tayisha Nelson (Zoom).

Staff present at the meeting: Doug Gucker, Sarah Vogel, Jamie Boas, Ben Steele, and Louise Hyneman

Jamie Boas welcomed everyone and everyone introduced themselves.

There were no public attendees or comments.

Jamie Boas presented about the "Role of the Extension Council/Orientation Presentation." It was noted that the staff numbers were incorrect (full staff is 5 support staff, 1 business administrative associate, 6 program coordinators, 2 SNAP-ED community workers and 1 county director). Information on the Open Meetings Act training will be sent to members.

Jamie Boas gave everyone the 2022-2023 meeting dates: November 14, 2022, March 13, 2023, and May 8, 2023, all starting at 6:30p.m.

Minutes from the May 9, 2022 Extension Council were presented. It was noted that the attendance was missing. Jamie Boas said she would get that fixed and re-send out the minutes. Jerry Edwards moved that the minutes be approved with the attendance added. Sonya Anthony seconded. Motion passed.

Jamie Boas reported that the State has paid the entire county board match money. Boas explained that those funds come from the state and match what is funded locally. Our fiscal year runs July 1-June 30, except for SNAP-ED because they are federally funded. Their year is October 1-September 30.

Jamie Boas explained that each county has an In and Out Checking Account. Unit Council approves the signatories on each of these accounts. Due to staff changes, it was moved by Cassie Crouch and seconded by Jerry Edwards that the following changes be made. It was passed.

Macon- Remove Doug Harlan, Add Ben Steele

DeWitt- Remove Doug Harlan and Lindsey Burden, Add Kendra Wallace

Piatt- Remove Doug Harlan, Add Eric Eickmeier

Unit Council is required to elect a Chairman, Vice- Chairman and a Secretary. The following were voted in as officers: Cassie Crouch as Chairman, Jerry Edwards as Vice-Chairman and Taylor Crouch as Secretary.

Jamie Boas said that the agenda item Program Planning should be changed to Program Planning. She explained that educators usually create a plan of work document that guides their work for one year. It helps educators plan what programs they plan to do and at which locations. However, the system is changing. We are starting with a needs assessment where we are locating data sets and reports available locally and regionally. Boas asked council members to send her information they may have that could be included in the

needs assessment. Megan Murphy said she will forward a site. Once the needs have been identified, educators will create a three-year plan of work.

Jamie Boas gave a personnel update.

- Consumer Economics Educator position- Closes 9/12
- Macon 4-H Youth Development Educator- Ben Steele started June 2022
- Piatt 4-H EPC- Eric Eickmeier started July 2022
- Macon 4-H EPC- Cortney Benton started August 2022
- SNAP-Ed Community Worker/EPC- Open
- County Director position- Closes 10/5
- Macon ANR EPC- Closed 9/9

Ben Steele gave the program highlight. He talked about the programs and partnerships he's built since starting in June. His focus has been on Decatur Public Schools, four churches in downtown Decatur and local libraries. He has over 40 youth signed up to play chess at the Decatur Library. He also spoke about upcoming workshops that are in partnership with local businesses.

Doug Gucker said the Master Naturalists have a lending library and it has been very busy. A second one is ready to be located at Rock Springs. Master Naturalists also provided activities at the Hummingbird Festival. He talked about the inconsistent rain within the unit making for variable yields. He is on the State Master Naturalist Conference Planning Committee because it is being held at Allerton.

Jamie Boas talked about the new partnership with the First Presbyterian Church in Monticello where a 3 cooking workshops were held over the summer. She also talked about the staffing changes for Kendra and Eric where Kendra will be focusing on multi-project clubs for Piatt and DeWitt Counties, Eric will be focusing on shooting sports clubs and natural resource programming for the two counties.

Caitlin Mellendorf was not in attendance, but her report can be found in the materials provided.

Sarah Vogel gave an update on the Master Gardener activities including number of trainees attending upcoming trainings, award winners, summer events in all three counties and upcoming events. She also highlighted her work which included help desk trainings, programs given, partnerships created, and upcoming programs. She also highlighted ongoing projects such as updating websites, rewriting the MG manual and creating a school garden short course.

Louise Hyneman gave an update on the direct education initiatives the two community workers are leading. Then she spoke about her Policy, Systems and Environment (PSE) programs at Old Kings Orchard Community Center and Crossing Healthcare Growing Together Illinois Project. She included positive evaluation data from participants in the prescription produce program.

Jamie Boas asked council members to identify which parts of the educator reports were the most helpful/useful/insightful. They mentioned: number of attendees, program highlights, evaluation data to show impact and upcoming programs. Members would also like to share and help educators, so it was suggested to add a "We need" section to the reports.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sonya Anthony and seconded by Jerry Edwards. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.m.