

Macon County Extension Council Meeting

September 13, 2021

The September 13, 2021 Unit 17 Extension Council meeting was held via Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The September 13, 2021 Extension Council meeting was called to order by Doug Harlan at 6:32 p.m.

Those present at meeting: Sonya Anthony, Nancy Derby, Kathi Drozs, Morgan Drozs, Jerry Edwards, April Gum, Karen Halicki, Merry Lanker, Megan Murphy, Tayisha Nelson, Ben Suckow, Jennifer Suckow, Kendra Wallace, and David White.

Staff present at meeting: Doug Harlan, Jamie Boas, and Caitlin Mellendorf

There were no public attendees or comments.

Doug Harlan went over the role of the Extension Council. His presentation went over the mission statement, the history, purpose, and role of the Extension Council. There were no questions on the content within the presentation.

Doug Harlan went over the future Extension Council meeting dates. All meetings will be held via Zoom for the 2021-2022 Council year and start at 6:30pm.

Minutes from the May 2021 Extension Council were presented. There were no corrections. A motion was made by Merry Lanker to approve the minutes, and was seconded by David White. Motion passed.

Doug Harlan went over the fiscal report. He provided an explanation of the fiscal accounts for the Unit. He also provided an update regarding the Unit FY 2021 and FY 2022 State County Board Match contribution. He told the Council that the Unit has received all of its FY 2021 County Board Match and the FY 2022 money was scheduled to be paid. Doug then went over the units and individual county's Income and Expense reports. He asked the Council if there were any questions on the reports. There were no questions or comments.

Doug told the Council that there were a few action items required for the Unit's In and Out Accounts. The Signature Cards needed to be updated. Approval of In and Out Signatories: For Macon County remove Staci Coussens and add Sarah Vogel. For DeWitt County add Jamie Boas. For Piatt County remove Jan Wenke and add Beth Miglin. David White made a motion to approve all signature changes and updates. Kendra Wallace seconded the motion. The Council voted to approve the changes.

Doug Harlan presented nominees for Officers to serve on Extension Council.

Chair- Nancy Darby

Co-Chair- Karen Halicki

Secretary-Kathi Drozs

A motion was made by Jennifer Suckow to accept the nominees and Mary Lanker seconded the motion. The nominees were approved.

Personnel Update: Doug Harlan informed Council that the Consumer Economic Education position is still currently open. He said that this position will be posted again in the spring of 2022. The Macon County 4-H Youth Development educator is open. Doug said that he intends to post this position in January of 2022. The Piatt 4-H Community Club EPC position is in process to be posted in a week. The SNAP-ED Community Worker/EPC position is now closed. This position will be held for a couple months and then reposted.

Program Updates: Jamie Boas introduced Sydnee Shafer a Senior from University of Illinois who did a Summer Internship with Jamie for her 4-H Youth Development Program. Sydnee shared a video highlighting her summer experience with the program. The kids had the opportunity to grow a Salsa Garden and then enjoyed making salsa. Cloverbuds were included in a Shipwrecked program where they made a First Aid Kit, painted a bank, made a picture frame and reportedly had a wonderful time. Sydnee also helped with the DMP 4-H fair and held a Summer Reading Program.

Doug Gucker Update: Doug's report included information on plant and crop problems for both homeowners and landowners answering over 250 questions on pests, diseases and pastures. Master Naturalists have been active with the Macon County conservation District and Allerton Park. They also hosted a bird watching group.

Jamie Boas Update: Jamie reported 190 youth showed 984 entries at the DMP 4-H Fair. She also provided information on numerous activities surrounding National 4-H Week, October 3-9. An event will be held in Piatt County at the Tractor Supply along with 3 contests photo and drawing, window display and pumpkin coloring.

Caitlin Mellendorf Update: Caitlin reported that she tests dial-gauge pressure canners for free. She also has upcoming classes on Certified Food Protection Managers, Cookin' in an Instant, Food Preservation and Diabetes and Prediabetes. Caitlin also announced she will be part of a grant through the Health Equity Achieved Together (HEAT) Project. A deer donation program covering 12 counties, to include DeWitt, Macon and Piatt. The grant hopes to connect hunters and meat processors and butchers to food pantries. This is a 2 year implement program. Fundraising, grants and donors to compensate the butchers and food processors will be needed.

Sarah Vogel Update: Sarah's report provided information on the 2021 Garden Tours. Several garden tours were well attended and had great feedback. Preparing trees for storms and managing them after a storm. Master Gardener Training. Piatt County Garden Walk. This fundraiser sold 358 tickets. The next Piatt County Garden Walk is in 2023. Horticulture Educators were also able to gather for the semi-annual meeting.

Doug Harlan reminded Council members to be thinking of identification of underserved people and programs. Also educational needs and program opportunities.

With no other business Nancy Derby closed the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Next meeting will be held via Zoom on November 8th at 6:30 p.m.