

Unit 22 Extension Council meeting was held on Monday, November 25, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm by Brian Mueller - Chairman.

Members Present: Brian Mueller, Wilbon Anthony, Raeleen Neary, Kayla Thessing, Rosemary Dorsy, Claire Dorsey, Amy Cope, Gary Green, Victoria Thomas, Justin Knobloch, Adam Mestemacher, April Rottmann, and Kenya Leonard.

Staff Members Present: Pam Jacobs, Nathan Johanning.

All members and staff members introduced themselves.

The September minutes were read aloud by members. Correction was made on "Katrina's" name, in place of "Katina". Rosemary made a motion to approve the corrections & minutes. Amy seconded. Motion carried, a vote was taken, all ayes.

Reports:

Extension State Advisory Committee - Brian M attended the October 14th meeting. He highlighted some key points from that meeting, including the \$15/hour minimum wage costing roughly a \$430,000/year increase, the HB-2264 wording of "may" changed to "shall" still does NOT mean "will" as the IL Comptroller makes the decisions on what voucher submissions to pay, and that the U of I has roughly 1 to 1.5 years of money in the account to operate without any state funding.

Discussions were had on State Matching Funds and state funded/matched positions not yet fulfilled.

Staff Update:

- Nathan Johanning, the new Commercial Agriculture Educator, introduced himself. He is currently based out of the Waterloo office. He spoke of Grant Projects, including Tomatoes & Bell Peppers in Field Research Trials.
 - Brian M. asked what are his two biggest challenges. Nathan said that reaching out to the Unit & letting people know he's there for the public to utilize, and Meeting with growers to bridge that connection between the growers and the Unit...wanting to learn what the growers really need & want to learn.
 - Brian M. also asked the biggest opportunity is. Nathan stated that to be Field Research.
 - Wilbon asked who covers the livestock questions if Nathan is more on the crops side. Nathan does cover livestock questions, too, but he is open to the fact that he is not that knowledgeable in that area, and defers livestock questions to the livestock specialists.
- EFNEP Educator, Ziaul Rana, started the position on November 15th, 2019.
- The Extension Program Coordinator - Military 4-H: Interviews are to be held tomorrow.
- JJK Partnership: Positions are in the works as the application period is currently open.

Programming Update:

- Claire Dorsey spoke on the Madison County 4H clubs and the events they have participated in.
- Civil Rights: Smith-Lever Dollars to fund these educators in Youth Development Programs. (Primarily 4H and SNAP.)

Extension Facilities Report:

- EFNEP Office recently had air quality testing completed because staff were concerned about the air quality. U of I will handle any building fixing or moving if the final report shows a problem. Initial reports showed the mold & asbestos levels to not be a concern.

Unit Financial Report:

- Extension Program Coordinator (EPC): The state increased the salary to meet current wages. The state will pay this year, but we will be paying next year.
- Academic Salaries: Smith-Lever Dollars will be used to pay for before any Trust Moneys will be used.
- Last year's budget ended up using about \$8,000 over the budgeted Smith-Lever Dollars. As of now, we haven't been asked to return that money.
- FY18 4H County Fair premiums are now paid. FY19 4H County Fair premiums are still not paid, however, 2019 State Fair Superior Awards have been paid.

Business:

County Director Report:

- Everyone was reminded to complete Open Meeting Act training
- Wilbon brought up the St. Clair County issue of decreased funding to the Unit due to money being spent on the new roads being built, as well as the high amount of Disabled Veterans Funding decreasing the tax income.
- Jan said that Madison County is looking for outside money from large corporations, etc., via check donations.
- Pam met with a Senator & 2 Representatives last week in Edwardsville. She shared with them how our budget works and the need for State Matching Funds. Those 3 will write letters of our behalf to send to the Comptroller.
- Direct Mail Campaigns have been sent out from Madison and St. Clair Counties.
 - Elizabeth & Sara continue to work on making marketing campaign videos.
 - A grant proposal has been written, asking for \$2,500, to purchase video equipment.
- 4H Enrollment is happening now. A club is trying to start up in Collinsville.
- The State 4H Goal has been set to increase new enrollment by 2,020 kids in the entire state for the year 2020.

Other:

- Upcoming fundraising activities in the unit were discussed.

Suggested Council Meeting Schedule

- Next meeting is set for January 27, 2020 at 6:45pm. At that meeting, we will welcome the new County Director as Pam retires on December 31, 2019. Four applicants will be interviewed next Friday by a "Search Committee". Brian thanked Pam for her many years of service in the Extension Services. All members clapped and stood.

Raeleen made a motion to adjourn. Amy seconded. Motion carried, vote take, all ayes.