

Minutes

**University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties
Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at Woodhull Town Hall, 150 North Division, Woodhull, IL 61490.**

Roll Call:

Present: Tyler Barrington, John Bowser, Barb Chiles, Carson Curry, Carlos Jimenez, Kyle McEwen, Jill Milroy, Bob Mueller, Sugandhi Sivakumar, Dawn Temple, Tim Wells
Others Present: Kristin Bogdonas, Russell Medley, Jennifer Peterson, Martha Smith, Tayler Wheatley

Public Comments: Not Applicable.

Previous Minutes:

- The minutes of the last meeting on October 15, 2019 were approved as read on a motion by Kyle McEwen and a seconded by Tim Wells. Motion carried.

Fiscal Reports:

- The Unit 7 Trust and Self Supporting accounts ending December 30, 2019 were provided in the packet for review.
- Ending balances for the in-and-out accounts ending December 30, 2019 were provided in the packet for review.
- Extension received \$5 million in county board match funding from the state of Illinois.

Council Report:

- Barbara Chiles reported Sheridan Hank of Mercer County is one of the 10 recipients of 4-H Young Leaders.
- Tim Wells reported on the Extension State Advisory Council meeting that include an overview of financials and spring legislative trip to Washington DC.
- Tim talked about joining Cambridge FFA, which is a complementary program to Extension 4-H.
- John Bowser indicated OSF Saint Luke Medical Center is working to provide transportation for individuals without autos. Current efforts include fundraising for a van and recruiting volunteer drivers. Starting with an 8 mile radius around Kewanee (will include Galva), the service would be for residents needing transportation to primary care appointments and pharmacies.
- Kyle McEwen discussed food insecurity. Mercer County Better Together is fiscal agent for a new food pantry in the county. He is working with River Bend Food Bank to supply the pantry.
- Kyle McEwen has been selected by the Orton Family Foundation to be a champion for the Heart & Soul planning process. He will be working with the foundation to update their materials and refresh their planning instruction guides.
- Tim Wells reported Geneseo Communications Inc. is partnering with Cambridge and Henry County Telephone to make a grant application to Illinois Broadband applications. Kyle McEwen met with iFiber and ISPs to discuss whether federal EDA money would be a good fit for the broadband connect grants. Tim Wells asked for Kyle McEwen and Bob Mueller to provide regional contacts from the telephone/broadband companies in order to work together to bring broadband investment to the area. University of Illinois Extension, Illinois Farm Bureau, and four Illinois representatives and senators are on Illinois Broadband Advisory Council.

- Kyle McEwen talked about Census 2020, of which Mercer County Better Together is a subcontractor. Enumerators (going to door to door) are making \$22 per hour. Will hire a couple of people at \$13.25 per hour to hold “census parties”. 9Important to get accurate counts of residents to protect our number of federal legislators.

Staff Programming Handout:

- Reports from Kristin Bogdonas, Haley Haverback, Russell Medley, Jennifer Peterson, Martha Smith, and Tayler Wheatley are included in the council packets. Council members were encouraged to review the many programs happening in Unit 7.
- Additional information on SNAP-Ed presentation topics and number of contacts were provided in the packets.

Announcements:

- Two new staff members have joined Unit 7. McCala Miller is an incoming youth development program coordinator to support primarily Rock Island County. Annie Landeverde is filling an extra help position to coordinate the 4-H Juntos program.

New Business:

- Tim Wells and Dave Dyer were on the audit team for the Federation in-and-out account. No omissions were noted.
- Unit 7 will be conducting another community needs assessment this year. The last one was completed in 2016 and focused on priority issues in the region. This one will address programmatic needs with both a quantitative study and focus groups. Carlos Jimenez suggested the unit outreach to churches for the focus group sessions.
- Unit 7 will be undergoing its three-year civil rights review on May 19, 2020.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Kyle McEwen and seconded by John Bowser that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Garner