

Minutes

University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 6 p.m. at Alpha United Methodist Church, 211 North Scandia Street, Alpha, IL 61413

The regular meeting of the Unit 7 (Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties) Extension Council was called to order by Barb Chiles on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Alpha United Methodist Church, 211 North Scandia Street, Alpha, IL 61413.

An educational session by Martha Smith on the Master Gardener Nursery School was held prior to the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Andrew Boruff, John Bowser, Barb Chiles, Dave Dyer, Caleb Englebrecht, Jared Johnson, Rex Johnson, Kyle McEwen, Sugandhi Sivakumar, Kristen VanDeVelde, Tim Wells

Others Present: Jenny Garner, Russell Medley, Martha Smith

Public Comments:

- None

Previous Minutes:

- The minutes from the last meeting on October 17, 2017 were approved as read on a motion made by Kyle McEwen and a second by Tim Wells. Motion carried.

Fiscal Report:

- Jenny Garner reviewed the In-and-Out accounts for each county, the overall unit budget, and the self-supporting fund for programming.

Council Reports:

- Tim Wells reported on House Bill 5691 to introduce a language change from “may” to “shall” to make it more favorable for Extension to receive County Board Match funding from the state. It is a bi-partisan bill. He is working with other Extension State Advisory Council members to add more state representatives as co-sponsors to the Bill before the next legislative session. State representatives in our region have co-sponsored.
- Barb Chiles congratulated Andrew Boruff on his Section FFA Proficiency Award in Sheep Production.
- Dave Dyer reported another successful Six-County Fast Pitch Competition held last week at the Alpha United Methodist Church. Shawn Kendall from Galva won the Retail or Service category for his travel agency app; Andi Konie won in the Manufacturing/Fabrication/Distribution category for Dinners on Me; and Linda Putnam from Monmouth won the Existing Business Expansion category for her salsa business. Seventeen successful businesses have started up since the competition began in 2012.
- Kyle McEwen invited the group to think about nominating a small business from the upcoming Small Business Day Celebration, which is also hosted by Entrepreneurial Support Network, a six-county consortium that is facilitated by Extension.

Staff Reports:

- Reports from Diane Baker, Kristin Bogdonas, Brad Cirks, Russell Medley and Martha Smith included in the council packets, and council members were encouraged to read about the many programs happening in Unit 7.
- Additional information on SNAP-Ed presentation topics and number of contacts for October 2017 – January 2018 were reviewed.

Announcements:

- Unit 7 Extension Advisory Council members serving on the Unit 7 Extension Board are:
 - Dave Dyer – Henry County
 - Carlos Jiménez – Rock Island County
 - Rex Johnson – Mercer County
 - Missy Nagode – Stark County
- County Board representatives serving on the Unit 7 Extension Board are:
 - Dena Hawn – Mercer County
 - Tom Howe – Stark County
 - Rick Livesay – Henry County
 - Virginia “Ginny” Sheldon – Rock Island County
- Brad Cirks SNAP-Ed Educator has been reassigned to the Interdisciplinary team.
- Haley Haverback has been hired to fill the position of Watershed Outreach Associate. She starts May 21 and will be housed in the Galva Extension office
- Extension 3.0 Task Force Summary was reviewed. The focus is to better connect College of ACES with Extension through digitalization, an innovation center, and applied research.

New Business:

- A motion was made by Tim Wells and seconded by Dave Dyer to approve a consent agenda for audit of the Mercer and Rock Island counties In-and-Out accounts. Motion carried.
- The council continued its discussion of priority issues identified in the Extension Unit 7 community needs assessment conducted October-December 2016. The council provided input on priorities 4 and 8: ensuring access to fresh and affordable food; helping youth choose healthy food and being physically active.
 - OSF Medical Group-Kewanee is looking to partner with some other organization to put in a community garden. They have talked with the housing authority, looked at locations including the physical nature of the site, and management strategies.
 - The Kewanee prison has a community garden and donated 4000 lbs. of food to local food pantries last year. They are in the process of getting high tunnels to create greenhouses on recently donated land.
 - Extension has a plant-a-row project coordinated by a master gardener who coordinates the sites but needs a better distribution system.
 - The council also talked about improving the Smarter Lunchroom program where school districts are federally funded. Extension is helping the districts change the lunchroom environment, food tray waste, child wellness, and healthy decisions.
 - People are reading more and trying to live a healthy life. It is a myth that it is more expensive to eat healthy.

Next Meeting:

- May 15, 2018 with a 5:45 p.m. educational session on Food Rescue featuring Kristin Bogdonas and Pete Vogel, followed by the 6:00 p.m. business meeting at the Rock Island County Extension office in Milan.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Kyle McEwen, with a second by Dave Dyer, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrew Boruff, Secretary