

Minutes

**University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties
Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 6:00 p.m. at University of Illinois Extension, 321 West 2nd Avenue, Milan.**

Roll Call:

Present: Barb Chiles, Loredia Dixon, Dave Dyer, Carlos Jimenez, Rex Johnson, Sugandhi
Sivakumar, Kyle McEwen, Tim Wells
Others Present: Jenny Garner, Haley Haverback, Russell Medley, Martha Smith

Public Comments: Not Applicable.

Previous Minutes:

- The minutes of the last meeting on February 19, 2019 were amended to include Dave Dyer as present; a motion to approve was made by Dave Dyer and a second by Tim Wells. Motion carried.

Fiscal Reports:

- The Unit 7 Trust and Self Support accounts were reviewed with net balance of \$278,858 for current year-to-date.
- FY19 funding from the State of Illinois has yet to arrive at the Extension Business Office in Champaign-Urbana. Extension is fully funded for FY20 in Governor J.B. Pritzker's budget.

Council Report:

- Tim Wells reported on HB2264 that amends the language from "may" to "shall" for Extension funding. He has secured full support locally with Representatives Mike Halpin, Tony McCombie, Dan Swanson and Senators Neil Anderson and Chuck Weaver on this House Bill that has moved to the Senate.
- Kyle McEwen said Mercer County Better Together is moving forward with the first community summit scheduled for tomorrow morning.
- Loredia Dixon talked about Opportunities Quad Cities, a grassroots effort using Dr. Donna Beegle's model of Neighbors (persons in poverty) and Navigators (mentor) to help overcome systemic barriers. She reported that Jenny Garner facilitates the effort that currently has 300 Neighbors. A Super Saturday is planned for June 22.
- Loredia also mentioned US Census 2020 training and suggested Extension might have a role in disseminating information as rural persons in poverty are considered an at-risk group. Open Door is seeing a large population of refugees and immigrants as well.
- Barb Chiles has read a Times Record story about the tree planting at the Mercer County Courthouse arranged by Master Gardener Vickie Hansen. There will be a variety of trees planted around the County and the tree inventory will be open for volunteers to collect information for the canopy.

Staff Reports:

- Barb Chiles advised council members review the staff handout to learn about recent and upcoming programming the unit.

- Russell Medley reported that he continues to work with the Village of Alpha after completing a community action plan. The Village has since explored a TIF district, written grants with Bi-State Regional Commission, and currently working on a new playground. Jenny Garner invited Council members to provide Russell Medley with suggestions for villages, cities, and towns in the unit's four-county area to complete the community planning process.
- The Master Gardener Plant Sale is May 11, 2019 at the Rock Island County Fairgrounds, East Moline. Tim Wells encouraged Council members to support the Plant Sale.

Announcements:

- The SNAP-Ed community worker search failed. Re-posting the position will happen sometime over the summer.
- Hiring a 4-H program coordinator is delayed.
- Unit 7 is back to being fully staffed with Office Support. Two Assistants have been hired and are employed; one works Monday-Wednesday-Friday in Galva and Tuesday-Thursday in Aledo and one works Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday in Milan and Wednesday in Aledo. The third Office Support employee was promoted to a Specialist position as a result of assuming fiscal duties while retaining SNAP-Ed and personnel responsibilities.
- The Unit received corporate funding to host an Ag Camp to educate youth about agriculture career possibilities. The first one is scheduled for Saturday, Jun 1, at Black Hawk College East, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Council members noted this is an important programming effort; Carlos Jimenez expressed that the MLK Center would be willing to host a similar opportunity.
- Unit 7 has been working with the City of Rock Island to develop a research plot for industrial hemp. The Unit will also host an industrial hemp workshop with Phillip Alberti, Crop Sciences Educator.
- The Region 1,2 and 3 Community and Economic Development positions are open until April 30, 2019.

New Business:

- Council members offered suggestions for potential new County members, one from each county, needed to represent Henry, Mercer and Rock Island County for upcoming year.
- Jenny Garner presented certificates and thanked outgoing Council members – Loredia Dixon, Dave Dyer, Rex Johnson – for their service.
- The 2019-2020 Extension Advisory Council agenda was distributed. The first meeting will be August 20, 2019 at the Henry / Stark County Extension Office, 358 Front Street.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Tim Wells and seconded by Carlos Jimenez that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Garner