

## Minutes

**University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties  
Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 5:45 p.m. at Woodhull Town Hall, 150 North Division, Woodhull IL 61490**

### **Roll Call:**

Present: John Bowser, Calvin Banks, Barb Chiles, Nathan DeRycke, Dave Dyer, Kyle McEwen, Emma Webster, Tim Wells  
Others Present: Kristin Bogdonas, Jenny Garner, Haley Haverback, Jennifer Peterson, Martha Smith, Tayler Wheatley

**Public Comments:** Not Applicable.

### **Previous Minutes:**

- The minutes of the last meeting on October 16, 2018 were approved as read on a motion 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 \$280,116 for current year-to-date. A \$40,000 entry from encumbered purchase orders is forthcoming in the Unit Trust account.
- Most of FY18 funding and \$5 million allocation from the Office of Governor Rauner was received by Extension. Unit 7 has excellent funding support from the County Board.

### **Council Report:**

- Tim Wells reported on his legislative efforts and discussions at the Extension State Advisory Council (ESAC). For fiscal year 2019, Extension has received \$487,000 of the \$10 million thus far. Mike Frerichs, State of Illinois Treasurer, sent his Chief of Staff Rob Baron to the recent Extension State Advisory Council, and has agreed to schedule a visit with Governor Rob Pritzker and Extension Leadership team including Dr. Shelly Nickols-Richardson and the three regional directors. Rob Baron also suggested having the October ESAC meeting at the Frerichs farm. Treasurers across the state are getting together the first week of April; Extension is on the agenda to bring awareness to all state treasurers.
- Emma Webster offered that Speaking for Illinois 4-H happens in Springfield in October; legislators are always enthused when they see the green clover.
- Tim Wells reported other items discussed at ESAC. A \$420,000 impact is anticipated from 2020 through 2024 as a result of the \$15.00 minimum wage increase. Interactive discussions were held by 4-H and Information Technology staff, including growing the agriculture economic and Extension membership.
- Kyle McEwen talked about Mercer County Better Together, which has over 400 people involved, 4,000 volunteer hours amassed, and a completed strategic plan. \$42,000 has been leveraged to access \$1.1 million in projects in a short period of time. Russell Medley, CED Educator, continues to be involved in the project.
- Kyle McEwen also discussed the Village of Viola project in progress with the University of Illinois Department of Regional and Urban Planning and facilitated by Russell Medley.

- Tim Wells attended the oak tree educational session led by Martha Smith in Aledo.

#### **Staff Reports:**

- Barb Chiles advised council members review the staff handout to learn about recent and upcoming programming the unit. The 2018 Unit 7 Extension Impact Report was also distributed.
- Martha Smith provided information on the upcoming Nursery School on Saturday, February 23, at Augustana College, with attendance increased to 233 participants over the previous year. A new group of Mercer County Master Gardener volunteers are currently undergoing training.
- Jennifer Peterson talked about 4-H Leadership Academy also scheduled for this Saturday, February 23, at the Putnam Museum. 75 youth are registered and 15 Teen Teachers are coming to help and attend 4-H stations with STEM and leadership activities.
- Kristin Bogdonas reported that she and a College of ACES faculty member received an Interdisciplinary Extension Collaboration (ICE) grant for \$60,000 focusing on food waste in schools. They are working with Stark County School District.

#### **Announcements:**

- Jenny Garner introduced Tayler Wheatley, our new SNAP-Ed Educator. Her work will focus on policy, systems and environment change; she has a particular interest in food deserts and emergencies.
- An offer has been made for the open SNAP-Ed community worker position, and hiring for the Office Support Assistant is in progress. This position will work four days in Milan and one day in Aledo, allowing that that office to be open three days a week (Tu, W, Th).
- Federation accounts are closing by September 1, 2019, with Foundations assuming fundraising responsibilities. The Federations will become 4-H clubs focused on providing 4-H members additional growth and leadership opportunities in county level programming. Federations can be involved in small fundraiser for club activities.

#### **Recruitment of Council Members:**

- Council members whose terms expire include Loredia Dixon, representing Rock Island County; Dave Dyer, representing Henry County; Rex Johnson, representing Mercer County. New Council members need to be identified and recruited for upcoming year. Bob Mueller is returning to represent Stark County.

#### **Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Emma Webster