

## Minutes

### University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 6 p.m. at Milan Extension Office, 321 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Milan, IL 61264

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, May 15, 2018 at 6:14 p.m. at the Milan Extension Office, 321 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Milan, IL 61264.

An educational session by Kristin Bogdonas and Pete Vogal on Food Rescue was held prior to the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

#### **Roll Call:**

Present: John Bowser, Barb Chiles, Sue Dorsey, Dave Dyer, Caleb Engebrecht, Jared Johnson, Rex Johnson, Kyle McEwen, Sugandhi Sivakumar, Tim Wells  
Others Present: Kristin Bogdonas, Russell Medley, Martha Smith, Vicky Couch, Lindy Couch

#### **Public Comments:**

- Lindy Couch gave a presentation on her experience with the Illinois Youth Leadership Team, which is comprised of 22 4-H youth from across the State of Illinois. Unit 7 had the largest representation on the team with four youth. Lindy is a member of the Red Rangers 4-H community club in Geneseo. She is also involved in the Quad Cities Leadership Academy, Teen Teachers, and Teen Hunger Ambassadors. Through these 4-H experiences, she has gained confidence and improved her public speaking abilities. These 4-H experiences influenced her chosen career path of special education.

#### **Previous Minutes:**

- The minutes from the last meeting on March 20, 2018 were approved as read on a motion made by Jared Johnson and a second by John Bowser. Motion carried.

#### **Fiscal Report:**

- Review of the financials was tabled until the August meeting.

#### **Council Reports:**

- Tim Wells reported \$6.6 million of the County Board Match was released to Extension through bi-partisan efforts of eight state legislators including Representative Dan Swanson. The state needs to pass another budget in late May; passage does not need a super majority.

#### **Staff Reports:**

- Reports from Kristin Bogdonas, Russell Medley, Jennifer Peterson, 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 Ag Literacy and SNAP-Ed presentation topics and number of contacts were provided in the packets.

#### **Announcements:**

- Carol Kendall, Office Support Assistant for the Galva Extension office, will be filling in two days at the Aledo Extension office (Tuesdays and Thursdays). She will reduce her time in Galva to three days (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays).

- A certificate of appreciation was given to Caleb Engebrecht with well wishes from the council. Certificates for other youth members will be mailed; those include Andrew Boruff, Paw Kaw Ku, and Sydney Wisnefski.

**New Business:**

- Discussion was held about council term limits. New members are asked to serve a minimum of two years but the preference is for them to serve four years. Once a council member reaches that four year mark, they can return but must sit off for one year.
- 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 6 and 7: helping communities ensure a safe and plentiful water supply and ensuring safe agriculture practices.
  - Martha Smith walked the council through the slide set that provided information on Unit 7 adult volunteer results, a brief summary of the Extension's statewide Ag and Natural Resources program, and explanations of the Master Gardener and Naturalists programs with specific Unit 7 examples.
  - Kyle McEwen reported water supply is a definite issue in Mercer County and Barb Chiles followed up that it took the City of Aledo 14 months to fix their water problem.
  - Tim Wells noted their water supply is getting a lot of attention in the public sphere right now.
  - Barb Chiles advised the State of Illinois has unfunded mandates where every school district is required to test the water supply.
  - The 4-H project to study invertebrates and water issues in the Edwards River has been helpful.
  - Safe agriculture practices are food based for farmer practices.
  - Extension offers pesticide training regularly in the unit and can bring in grain safety. Martha Smith explained that educators are brought in from outside the unit to provide agriculture education.

**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 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Russell Medley