



Unit 25 Extension Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 22, 2022
Edwards County Farm Bureau Meeting Room
15 S. 5th Street
Albion, IL 62806

5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Justine Basnett, Kelley Biggs, Terry Bruce, Paul Bruinsma, Julie Clodfelter, Kaciee Haag, Michelle Pillar, Doug Raber, Jan Ridgley, and Don Robbins

Members Absent: Haleigh Buchanan, Sara McGehee, Rhiannon Anderson, Jim Brewer, Tonya Potts

Staff Members Present: Tara Buerster, Samantha Gaither, and Ryan Littlejohn

CALL TO ORDER

Kacie Haag called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. Council members enjoyed a meal at 5:30 p.m. with some of the staff from Unit 25 where council members and staff introduced themselves to the group. Staff present for meal included Carol VanMatre, Jessica Simpson, Theresa Reid, Yvette Anderson, Ryan Littlejohn, Jane Jones, Debra Collier, Dana Hart. Once the meal concluded staff members were dismissed to leave if they chose to before business began.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 13 minutes were reviewed by the group. Terry Bruce made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Doug Raber seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tara Buerster presented the Unit 25 Financial Report as of October 31, 2022. Michelle Pillar made a motion to approve the financial report as presented, Justine Basnett seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. County Office Spaces: Edwards County staff are moving into Dr. Spear's old Chiropractic office in Albion. The location was approved by campus, and staff will be moving in to their new location spring of 2023. There is some remodeling that will take place on the building before staff moves in at no expense to the Unit, other than some internet wiring.

Potential new Richland County office spaces are being looked at and reviewed by Tara. There are a couple potential options currently. Unit 25 will have some extra income for office space lease due to the Regional Director planning to be housed in the Richland County office.

- b. Open Meetings Act Training: All council members are required to take the training. Tara has provided the link and information regarding the training. Some council members still need to complete training.
- c. Lawrence County Junior Fair Board Agreement: There has been a revised agreement to match the decisions agreed upon by the board and Tara. The agreement will not have to go through the contract department on campus as originally anticipated. It will go through the vendor process at this time. Council Members discussed possibilities of finding funding for the \$1500 now required by the board for use of their facilities. Ideas such as fundraising and sponsors were presented.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Second Educator for the Unit: The new Educator for Unit 25 will be a Local Foods, Small Farms Educator. Unit 25 already has a Master Gardener program, recently established, that the Educator will oversee. Plans are to post the job opening sometime after the first of the year. Tara Buerster also discussed the possibility of a third Educator for the Unit in the near future, as well as the potential for a Marketing EPC.
- b. Unit Impact Focused Assessment: Tara Buerster provided handouts to the council members and gave a description of the Impact Focused Assessment. She also discussed the Unit's 3-year plan.
- c. Engaging Diverse Audiences: Unit 25 is always looking for more diverse audiences to serve. The council members were asked to brainstorm some types of diverse audiences and opportunities to reach them. Unit 25 is planning to work alongside Unit 21 on a programming opportunity to foster parents and children, as well as offer programming to the Children's Group Home in Wayne County.

STAFF REPORTS

County Director: Tara Buerster presented to the group information about a poverty simulation at the Regional Office of Education. She will be getting trained and purchasing a kit from Missouri Extension to begin offering these poverty simulations. Tara also presented the My PI disaster preparedness for teens from Mississippi Extension that she has been working on. These can be offered in local high schools, possibly in health classes. At the last council meeting we discussed the upcoming End of Life Planning Seminar. Tara shared that the seminar was extremely successful, and she would like to offer more opportunities for this seminar in other counties. Tara reviewed increasing numbers in 4-H, SNAP-Ed, and Master Gardeners. Finally, Tara discussed with the council members her recent travel and some upcoming events for Unit 25.

Youth Development Educator: Samantha Gaither reviewed recent programming for each county in the Unit. Unit 25 currently has 714 Club members. January 1st is the deadline for new members to enroll. Sam shared several upcoming events for each of the 5 counties, presented the 2023 fair dates for each county and the Illinois State Fair (Springfield).

Fair dates: Lawrence County, July 8-14, 2023

Wayne County, July 7 through July 15, 2023

Wabash County, July 15 through July 22, 2023

Richland County, July 22 through July 29, 2023

Edwards County, July 27 through August 4, 2023

Illinois State Fair in Springfield, August 9 through August 20, 2023

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

FUTURE MEETING DATE

Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 5:30 pm

Edwards County Extension Office, 350 N 7th St, Albion, IL 62806

Zoom option possibly available, if needed due to weather

ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Don Robbins and seconded by Terry Bruce. All in favor, motion carried.