



# Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**University of Illinois Extension  
Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington Counties  
Unit 23**

Multi-County Council Minutes  
April 27, 2021; 11:30 am  
@ Jefferson County Extension Office

**Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order by Jordee Koehler at 11:45 a.m.

**Roll Call:**

Council members present included: Rebecca Niemerg, Natalie Wellen and Sam Phillips. Present via Zoom were Linda Summers and Stephen Newton. Staff in attendance Jordee Koehler, Chris Lueking, Kara Boozer, Wyatt Miller and Rhonda Mueller.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 23, 2022:**

Due to not having a quorum present, approval of the February 23, 2022 minutes was tabled.

**Extension Updates – County Director:**

Jordee informed the members that the Family and Consumer Science position (FCS) has been offered and accepted with an anticipated start date of June 1. This individual will be building the program from the ground up. Jordee will keep council informed as announcements are made.

There has been a series of 4-H Program Coordinator interviews for the Clinton, Jefferson and Marion positions. Offers have been made and accepted for the Jefferson and Marion positions. The process is still in negotiations for the Clinton position and Jordee hopes to know more later this week. It is anticipated that these positions will start May 16.

The Marion County Office Support position is currently open. It is a Monday-Friday position with the hours of 8:00 am – 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Council members were encouraged to spread the word about the open position.

The Marion County Snap Ed Community Worker position will be testing on Monday, May 2. Hopefully that position will be filled soon.

**College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences**

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Jordee approached Council with the possibility of starting a Community Kitchen. After good discussion and feedback, it was decided to reach out to local schools that would be equipped with commercial food equipment about the possibility of partnering with them on this project to save costs of rent and equipment. Central School in Mt. Vernon was discussed to possibly be the test pilot for this venture. Natalie Wellen and Chris Lueking have connections with the school and will discuss this with the administration. If the test pilot is successful in Mt. Vernon, then they will see about duplicating in the other surrounding areas.

### **Extension Educator Updates:**

Chris Lueking indicated that the Ag & Natural Resource Program is kicking off the growing season. She has recently conducted several hands-on lessons including a Soils Lesson at the 7 Acres Nursery, where she had 15 people from the public attend. They have also had a Native Plants Program @ Plant Land in Breese followed by a trip to Meyer's Nursey & Greenhouse in Nashville, IL and talked about annuals and fruit trees. There was a Hanging Basket program recently at the Salem Extension Office with 23 participants.

Chris has also been at the Carlyle Conservation Days with the Carlyle Jr. High. The focus was on 1) Container gardening and 2) Tree ID.

The Community Gardens are getting ready for the growing season. Today there was renovation of new doors to the shed at the Salem Garden by the Salem Construction Class. There will also be a rectangle sun shade installed at the garden.

Master Naturalists training will begin on June 4. The marketing for this program has just begun. It will be marketed at the Jr. Colleges.

It was recommended to install a sun shade at all of the gardens and "Brand" them. Chris indicated that there are 37 beds at the Salem Garden with six available beds. They will also feature CR Codes at the gardens.

Chris was able to assist Rebecca on a project she had with SSM where they handed out tree seedlings.

Next, Wyatt Miller gave a report on 4-H/Youth programming. He has been able to go into the schools more touching on Pollinator Garden, Monarch Butterflies and Vegetable Gardens. He has also presented at a recent Earth Day Mini Club Event at the Washington County State Lake with another event scheduled for this weekend in Breese. Wyatt will also be working with the Ashley Library during the month of July with a theme of "Going to Summer Camp". Wyatt is still planning the 4-H Camp June 6-10 @ Carlyle. He is partnering with the Corps of Engineers where they will bring a different live animal in each day. The theme is "Your Community Food Chain". The camp will run from 9-3 Monday – Friday.

Kara Boozer then reported that she will be working with the Conservation Days at the Salem Fairgrounds. This will be a two-day event with approximately 150 students anticipated each day. There are many community partners that will be assisting such as IDNR, Soil & Water, Tri County, Ag in the Classroom, etc.

On Saturday, May 9 there will be a Livestock Conference at the Salem Fairgrounds. Currently there are 20 youth registered. They will concentrate on feeding, showing, and grooming. The afternoon session will include a YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) live training that is required by the State of Illinois.

## **College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences**

There will be a Food Fair on Friday, May 13, at the Carlyle Fairgrounds. They will be partnering with the fairgrounds and the Carlyle FFA. They anticipate 20,000 lbs of food. The event will require 40-45 volunteers. Jordee indicated that the Mobile Markets are going back to in person/shopping style to allow for the education component. In June Kara will also be participating in Library Programs at the Centralia Library which is a new partner for Extension. We will also be placing a Little Food Pantry at the Centralia Library.

Ashley was attending a meeting on campus so was unable to attend the council meeting but provided a handout on things that have been happening in the SNAP program. The items she touched on were SNAP-Ed at the Library, USDA Management Evaluation for SNAP-Ed Programming, Mobile Markets & Food Fairs, an update on the Little Free Food Pantry Project and things that the SNAP-Ed Team are doing on a daily basis.

### **Financial Update:**

The Financial Report was presented to the council members with expenses and income through March 31. Jordee informed members that they will be included in their respecting counties' Extension Board Meetings in the Fall that are held with the County Boards for funding requests. It was mentioned that many think that Extension received ARPA funding but it is a matter of informing people that we were not included in that funding.

No motion to approve could be entertained due to not having a quorum.

### **Old Business:**

Natalie reported that the grants that she was applying for have been received and she has been in contact with Chris on possible ways to incorporate them into Extension.

### **New Business:**

There was no new business.

Upcoming meeting schedule will be sent out in June. Jordee will also be working on gathering more representation from Clinton County. It was recommended that the board members be polled on what time and day works best for them.

The group was then dismissed lacking a quorum.