



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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

Multi-County Council Minutes
August 16, 2023; 11:30 am
@ Clinton County Extension Office

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Sam Phillips at 11:32 a.m.

Roll Call:

Council members present answering to roll call included: Elaine McNamara, Bernard Myers, Nick Suess, Julie Wollerman, Mike Bruns, Wesley Gozia, Marla Guggenheimer, Julie Brooks, Natalie Shook, Jamie Storey, Terry Wilkerson, Jeff Pingsterhaus, Sam Phillips, Korbin Collins, Dee DeMoss, Matt Hornbostel and Julie Karmeier. Staff in attendance were Jordee Koehler, Chris Lueking, Kara Boozer, Amber Heern and Rhonda Mueller.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2022, February 15, 2023 and June 7, 2023:

A motion was made by Natalie Shook with a second by Elaine McNamara to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2022, February 15, 2023 and June 7, 2023 meetings. Motion carried.

Introduction of members and guests:

Council members and Extension Staff members were welcomed by Jordee Koehler, County Director for Unit 23 encompassing Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion and Washington Counties.

Council Orientation:

Jordee shared with the council what their advisory role on council is and some history about Illinois Extension. The terms consist of two 2-year terms. There are four meetings a year.

The Unit is made up of a County Director, two youth Educators, Ag & Natural Resource Educator, Family Consumer Science Educator, a 4-H Extension Program Coordinator in each of the five counties, one ANR Extension Program Coordinator, two Marketing Coordinators and office support in each of the five counties. The Unit also staffs the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program with is funded by a Federal Grant which consists of an Educator along with two Community Outreach Workers.

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University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

The five Grand Challenge areas that Extension focus' on are: Community, Economy, Environment, Economy and Food. A community needs assessment was conducted to identify which priority issues need to be addressed for our local area.

4-H Youth Development – Amber Heern

Amber started with Extension in January, coming to Extension with 15 years of teaching expertise. In an effort to reach more youth, the youth educators are starting a train the trainer program to present programs to the teachers through the partnership with the Regional Office of Education (ROE) to provide professional development opportunities offering our resources that are available.

4-H Youth Development – Kara Boozer

Youth Development will be concentrating on College and Career Readiness and Thriving Youth. They will be partnering with Kaskaskia College for their 8th grade college and career readiness day which will facilitate all 8th grade students in our 5 county area which should be around 1200 students.

The 4-H Program Coordinators will continue to concentrate on growing 4-H clubs.

FCS – Family Consumer Science

They have found that there is a need for both adult and youth programs. In an effort to reach the adult audience, FCS Educator, Jamie Mahlandt has started a social media campaign with a Facebook post on Mondays called Mindful Mondays which she addresses various relevant financial topics. She has also started a monthly blog.

Jamie is also participating in the Welcome the Real World simulation along with the youth educators. She is also working with the state team on the Lessons for Living with the Home Community Education Organization.

ANR – Horticulture – Chris Lueking

Chris' background is in production with animal science and horticulture. She deals a lot with specialty crops and high tunnel production. Through her work on the needs assessment she found that there is a need at The Maschhoff's to provide additional resources for their Hispanic employees. Extension will provide educational stations at their Fall in the Farm program to showcase some of the services and programs that are available in both English and Spanish.

Chris has been conducting a Back to the Basics programs where she has been providing Family Gardening, Canning 101, Backyard Beekeeping and Backyard Chickens.

Chris is doing some "Hort How To" videos – making a salsa garden and saving seeds to try and teach some forgotten skills. She is also going to be starting a "Hort How to Hotline".

She will be in charge of the Regional Commercial Tree Fruit School in February 2024 at the Double Tree Hotel.

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SNAP – Education – Jordee Koehler

The main focus this year will be to get an educator because without this component it is very hard to have a thriving program.

Overall, the Unit has chosen to concentrate it's efforts into:

- Thriving Youth
- Financial Well-Being
- Enhancing Natural Resources and Engagement with Home, Community Landscapes
- Work Force Prep/Advancement
- Food Access

Council members then identified which county they represent and what their occupation is and their affiliation to Extension.

Financial Update:

Jordee gave an overview of the different funding avenues for Extension to council members.

Members were given the FY23 Final Fiscal Report and the July FY24 to review.

Old Business:

There was no old business for discussion.

For new business a motion was made by Terry Wilkerson with a second by Wesley Gozia to have the signatories for the Washington County In/Out Account being Jordee Koehler, Christina Lueking, Kara Boozer and Amber Heern. Motion Carried.

New Business:

Election of Officers

A motion was made by Julie Wollerman with a second by Elaine McNamara to keep the same slate of Officers – those being Chairman – Sam Phillips, Vice-Chair – Dee DeMoss and Secretary – Natalie Wellen. Motion carried.

Sam proposed that future meetings be held in the Clinton County Office. A motion was made by Terry Wilkerson with a second by Julia Wollerman to continue the Extension Council meeting location in the Clinton County Office pending availability. Motion carried.

The next council meeting will be held on October 18 @ 11:30 at the Clinton County Extension Office.

A motion was made by Wesley Gozia with a second by Natalie Wellen to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm.

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