



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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

Multi-County Council Minutes
November 9, 2022; 11:30 am
@ Jefferson County Extension Office

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Sam Phillips at 11:30 a.m.

Roll Call:

Council members present answering to roll call in person included: Sam Phillips, Galen Mahle, Natalie Wellen Shook, Julie Brooks, and Wesley Gozia, Elaine McNamara and Dee DeMoss via Zoom. Staff in attendance were Doug Harlan, Chris Lueking, Kara Boozer, Jamie Mahlandt, Elaine Craver and Rhonda Mueller.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 17, 2022:

A motion was made by Galen Mahle with a second by Natalie Wellen Shook to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

Update on Bond County Financial:

Sam updated the Council Members on the recent events concerning the levy funding meeting in Bond County. He indicated that the meeting was very contentious but they were able to get the funding raised to the previous level.

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Julie Brooks is replacing Rebecca Niemerg. She is the representative from SSM.

Extension Updates – Interim County Director:

Doug informed the group that Amber Heern has been hired as a 4-H Youth Development Educator. She comes to Extension with 15 years of education experience. She will begin her position on January 3, 2023. The Bond County 4-H EPC and the Jefferson County Office Support positions will be open soon as well. The SNAP-ED Educator position has been extended and will close January 23, 2023.

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Educator Updates - Kara Boozer, Chris Lueking, and Jamie Mahlandt

The Educators have been working on the formal Unit Needs Assessment since August. Jaime became IRB certified to be able to conduct the on-line survey to gather data. They are concentrating on gathering data by three different components: 1) Focus Groups 2) Key Informant Interviews 3) On-Line Survey.

The Educators conducted the Key Informant Interview with the council members in attendance addressing the following questions:

Grand Challenges that Unit 23 focuses on
Community – Thriving Youth (Kara Boozer)
Economy – Financial Well Being (Jamie Mahlandt)
Environment – Engagement with Home/Community Landscapes (Chris Lueking)
Environment – Sustaining Natural Resources (Chris Lueking)
Food – Food Access (Chris Lueking)
SNAP – Snap Programming (Chris Lueking during the vacancy of an Educator)

- 1. What community assets and resources already exist that address these issues?**
 - a. United Way 211
 - b. Church Youth Groups
 - c. Homework Hangout Crosswalk
 - d. CCBW
 - e. Crosswalk
 - f. Pantries
 - g. Community Based Programs (Angels on Assignment, etc.)
 - h. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
 - i. Outdoor Classroom (behind Visitors Center)
- 2. What gaps or unmet needs have you noticed?**
 - a. Rental Assistance
 - b. Transportation
 - c. Utilities being shut off
 - d. Medications
 - e. Tutoring Programs
 - f. Daycare
 - g. Loss of Grants
- 3. Who are underserved audiences or have unmet needs if these issues were addressed locally?**
 - a. People just above the SNAP eligibility
 - b. United Way – ALICE – just above the poverty line (working poor)
 - c. Homeless
 - d. Members who don't attend church regularly
- 4. Where are places to Target to address the issues**
 - a. Police
 - b. Yoga groups
 - c. YMCA
 - d. Hospital
 - e. Kingdom Seed Feed

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- f. Evergreen Church - Salem
- g. Core Community
- h. Simple Room – after school program
- i. Kindergarten Readiness Program (KRP)
- j. Community Meal (Calumet Christian Church)
- k. Hungry Hearts (Salem)
- l. Save with Amazing Grace
- m. City – community room
- n. Veteran’s Park
- o. Community Center - Nashville

5. What are the barriers getting in the way for people to get help?

- a. People just don’t know what’s available
- b. Capacity
- c. Transportation
- d. Ways to accept payment at Markets, etc.

6. Are there ways we can better address the issue together?

- a. Partner with more organizations
- b. Finding those that will accept help
- c. Work with Farmers Markets to accept grant funds

Financial Update:

Members reviewed the Financial Report for October.

Old Business:

The Bond County Financial issue was previously discussed.

Congratulations were given to Jordae on the arrival of Arnie James in September.

New Business:

The next council meeting will be held on May 17 @ 11:30 at the Marion County Extension Office.

A motion was made by Elaine McNamara with a second by Wesley Gozia to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.