



# Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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

Multi-County Council Minutes

June 7, 2023; 11:30 am

@ Marion County Extension Office

**Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order by Jordee Koehler at 11:32 a.m.

**Roll Call:**

Council members present answering to roll call in person included: Julie Brooks, Marcus Holland, Katie Albert, Elaine McNamara, and Natalie Shook. Staff in attendance were Jordee Koehler, Chris Lueking, Kara Boozer, Amber Heern, Jamie Mahlandt, and Rhonda Mueller.

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

Approval of the November 9, 2022 and the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes were tabled due to not having a quorum present.

**Extension Updates – County Director:**

Jordee informed the council that in March the Unit brought on a new 4-H EPC for Bond County and currently the Unit is fully staffed in 4-H, but effective August 1, the Clinton County EPC will be taking over the Marion County Horticulture EPC position thereby leaving a void in the Clinton County 4-H EPC position. The hiring process has begun and it is hoped to have someone in that position prior to the 2023 Clinton County Fair so the new candidate could shadow the current 4-H EPC and then take over the duties on August 1.

The Jefferson County Office Support is due to start on Monday, June 12. After that time the unit will be fully staffed in the category of Office Support. The SNAP positions (Educator and 2 Community Outreach Workers) have not been filled and there have been several failed searches. Jordee would like to fill the Educator position first and will continue to work on getting that position filled.

The Educators and Jordee have been going to County Board Meetings in the various counties and giving presentations on what Extension is and what we do.

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## **Educator Updates – Updates from the recent Needs Assessment**

### ***Kara Boozer – Youth and 4-H***

The needs Assessment gathered information by:

- Focus Groups which included the Advisory Council, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists and Internal Staff
- Key Informant Interviews
- Community Members

The Topics of Interest that were identified pertaining to 4-H Youth Development were:

- 1 Animal Sciences
- 2 Environmental Sciences
- 3 College and Career Readiness
- 4 Food Systems
- 5 Healthy Living and Nutrition
- 6 STEM
- 7 Creative Arts

### ***Jamie Mahlandt – Family Consumer Science***

The topics of interest that were identified pertaining to Financial Education were:

1. Financial Literacy for Youth
2. Saving and Investing
3. Spending Money
4. Protecting Money
5. Financial Awareness
6. Borrowing Money
7. Earning Money

### ***Chris Lueking – Ag & Natural Resources***

The topics of interest that were identified pertaining to Horticulture Education were:

1. Home Gardening – Food Production
2. Pollinators Habitat – Environmental
3. Community Gardens – Food Access
4. Invasive Species – Environmental
5. Forestry/Pond Management/Conservation Strategies – Environmental
6. Soil/Weather/Wildlife/Bird Watching – Environmental
7. High Tunnel/Hydroponics/Urban Agriculture/Cover Crops – Food Access

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## **Jordee Koehler – SNAP Ed**

The topics that were identified pertaining to SNAP Education are:

1. Food Budget/Saving Tips
2. Cooking Classes
3. Healthy Lifestyle/Exercise Activity
4. Recipes
5. Nutrition Facts
6. Food Preservation
7. Food Safety

Upcoming Programs/Activities to be held this summer that will be focusing on the needs that have been identified:

- ❖ Summer Institute
  - Partnership with ROE
    - Train the Trainer resources
    - Hydroponics
  - Provide continuing education credits for teachers in Clinton, Jefferson, Marion and Washington Counties
- ❖ Partnership with The Maschhoff's at their Fall Fest
- ❖ Welcome to the Real World Simulations
  - Looking to offer one in each of the five counties
- ❖ SEL
- ❖ Your Thoughts Matter
- ❖ Leadership Summit
- ❖ Livestock Skill-a-Thon
- ❖ Leader Orientation
- ❖ Mindful Mondays
- ❖ Finding Financial Balance Monthly Blog
- ❖ Statewide Programming with HCE, Quarterly Companion, Plan Well Retire Well, Let's Talk Money
- ❖ Community Gardens (Know More Grow More Gardens)
- ❖ Conservation Days
- ❖ Green Thumb Thursday
- ❖ How-to Videos for Horticulture
- ❖ Back to Basics Sessions for Agriculture

It was recommended to partner with the STRIVE Program in Mt. Vernon and resurrect the Reality Days in Centralia area.

Jordee will share the highlight sheets that have been prepared for each respective county board presentation and she will share those with everyone.

### **Financial Update:**

Members reviewed the Financial Report for April.

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**Old Business:**

No Old Business was discussed.

**New Business:**

Jordee thanked Katie and Marcus for their time of service to the council as their terms are ending.

Discussion was held on possible meeting places and times. The schedule of meetings will be provided to council members when it is available.

The meeting was adjourned by Jordee at 12:34 pm.