

MINUTES

University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties Tuesday, August 15, 2023, scheduled for Woodhull Town Hall.

Present: Katlyn Attig, Barb Chiles, Dave Dyer, Logan Goerks, Janet Hill, Jill Milroy, Haley McDonald, Bob Mueller, Tami Rouse, Dianna Saelens

Others Present: Jenny Garner

Arrangements had been made and confirmed with Woodhull Town Hall clerk to provide building access for Extension Unit 7's Advisory Council meeting beginning with a light supper at 5:30 p.m. and followed by the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Despite attempts to locate someone for the Village to unlock the premises and other alternatives explored including phone calls to the public library and quick search for a nearby park, we were unsuccessful with proceeding with the meeting. The Council members graciously tailgated the light supper and headed home around 6:10 p.m. Since the August meeting, the Village clerk has provided another cell phone number and the county director located a nearby picnic area should it become necessary in future.

University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting – Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties Tuesday, October 17, 2023, via Zoom.

Roll Call:

Present: Katlyn Attig, Catherine Bass, Barb Chiles, Dave Dyer, Logan Goerks, Spencer Griffin, Ingrid Hays Emily Herricks, Janet Hill, Tara Mayhew, Jill Milroy, Haley McDonald, Bob Mueller, Tami Rouse, Dianna Saelens

Others Present: Jenny Garner, Tayler Louscher, Russell Medley, Emily Swihart

Public Comments: Not applicable.

Election of Officers:

The election of Tami Rouse as financial reporter for the Extension Unit 7 Advisory was made by Barb Chiles and seconded by Jill Milroy.

Previous Minutes:

- The minutes of the last meeting on April 25, 2022, were approved as read on a motion by Tara Mayhew and seconded by Janet Hill. Motion carried.

Fiscal Report:

- The Unit 7 Trust and Self-Supporting accounts ending August 13, 2023, were provided for review. Jenny Garner explained an issue had been identified with how a new fiscal software system was being used and resulted in a different fund account balance reflected on the cover page summary. The figures have been adjusted to reflect the accurate Trust account balance on the cover page.
- Balances of the Henry/Stark, Mercer, and Rock Island in-and-out accounts (checking) were provided to the Council.

Incoming Council Members

Jenny Garner and Council members welcomed new Council members: Katlyn Attig, Ingrid Hays Haley McDonald, Tami Rouse, and Dianna Saelens.

Council Report:

- Dianna Saelens provided information on Birth to Five Illinois Region 28 (Bureau, Henry, and Stark counties) that included a summary of their early childhood regional needs assessment. Tayler Louscher is part of their action council.
- Janet Hill shared that the support and resources provided by Tayler Louscher, including coordination of food boxes and healthy eating resources for the refugee health screening event, contributed to its success.
- Diana Saelens indicated the Henry/Stark County Health Department wants to offer cooking classes on how to better use SNAP and food pantry items.

Staff Programming Information:

- Russell Medley updated the Council on the housing study for Henry, Mercer, and Stark counties. Four graduate students from the Department of Regional and Urban Planning are visiting this month to meet with local community and economic development professionals and take a tour of the housing stock in the three-county area.
- Emily Swihart reported spotted lanternflies are not in our counties but have been spotted in Illinois. Spotted lanternflies are invasive feed on a wide range of crops and plants.
- Master Gardener volunteer Judy Johnson received the Outstanding Master Gardener of the Year at the State Master Gardener conference.
- Tayler Louscher talked about the food pantry pop-ups our Extension unit and community partners that resulted in 2,000 lbs. of locally grown produce donated at these four pop-up events held at Palamores Social Justice Center.

Announcements:

- Elaine Kaple has been hired as the unit's metro youth development educator and will focus efforts with urban youth to provide non-traditional 4-H program access.
- Nicole Haverback will be joining the unit in the next few months as the watershed quality outreach associate focused on nitrogen reduction. Rachel Curry has moved into an agriculture/agribusiness educator position with statewide responsibilities.
- Janet Hill attended the United Counties Council of Illinois 2023 Leadership Academy for County Offices with programming provided by University of Illinois Extension.

Open Meetings Act Online Training:

Information was distributed to Council members on how to complete their Open Meetings Act training online with the State of Illinois. Send certificates of completion to Jenny Garner.

University of Illinois Equal Opportunity in Employment Plan:

A summary of the 2023 was provided to Council members with a website link to the full report.

Review of Community Needs Assessment:

- Jenny Garner reviewed the community needs assessment conducted by the unit in 2022. Illinois Extension works wherever there are educational needs in urban and rural locations; it is based on local community needs which are ever evolving. The process involved assessing internal

capacity noting three-year trends, gathering and analyzing local secondary data, conducting interviews, and incorporating results into program planning.

- Unit staff work on the following Extension Grand Challenges:
 - Economy: Workforce Preparedness / Advancement, Economic Vitality
 - Community: Involvement and Leadership, Thriving Youth
 - Environment: Enhancing and Preserving Natural Resources, Engagement with Home and Community Landscape and Environment
 - Food: Food Access
- Council members engaged in further discussion on Workforce Preparedness / Advancement and Economic Vitaliy.
 - The region is forecasted to experience an increase of 12,400 jobs across all industries in the next 10 years. This happened before COVID and is because people are retiring and the younger generations are smaller. Jobs will become automated or go elsewhere.
 - Transportation is also an issue for access to healthcare as well as travel to jobs or out migration to work.
 - There are issues with availability of housing stock and availability in rural communities.
 - Rural communities are smaller in the Quad Cities MSA and Peoria MSA with not enough staff to access community and economic development grants where there is significant Grant-writing is extremely difficult and takes a long time, and there is risk associated with spending money for an expensive grant-writer and then not securing the grant.
 - Broadband remains an issues as is digital awareness and inclusion. It used to be sewer, water, and highway but now the need is broadband.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Janet Hill and seconded by Tami Rouse that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Milroy