Minutes

Attendance: Tanesha Pittman, Cook; Ed Schuckert, McHenry; Pam Garland, Lake; Alex Panozzo, Kankakee; Wayne Mundsinger, Kendall; Doug Tweeten, Will; Pat Kosmach, DuPage; and Extension staff members James Oliver, Richard Hentschel, and Cathie Condon.

Absent: Dave Klussendorf, Kane

Introductions

Review/approval of minutes from previous meeting: It was moved (Kosmach) and seconded (Schuckert) to accept the minutes of April 16 2009, as corrected.

Programming spotlight
Richard Hentschel—Extension Specialist, Green Industry Programming
Dr. James Oliver introduced Richard Hentschel who gave a presentation about the City Produce Project, a project that exists mainly in Cook County but also has been conducted in Lake County. Hentschel began by explaining how Monsanto and the Illinois Corn Marketing Board (ICMB) approached Extension about how best to get fresh produce to neighborhoods that are considered food deserts—areas that have few or no grocers to provide healthy fresh foods.

Handouts distributed provided specifics of the program along with some of the 16 fact sheets that were created for the project on the vegetables being grown. Largely using donated funds from Monsanto and ICMB, Extension has been able to produce about 11,000 pounds of vegetables, distribute it to neighborhoods in Chicago, and teach recipients how to grow, purchase, cook and serve fresh vegetables. A late start and inclement weather resulted in less than planned amounts of produce, but the response has been positive, and a fair amount of publicity was generated to indicate interest in extending the program another year. It even has a Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/CityProduceProject).

Discussion followed.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Sharing
See attached.
**Administrative Update**

**Reorganization**—Dr. Oliver

The first and second stages of reorganization have been completed. In the last 10 days, Extension Administration has been working on personnel matters. The process is not complete, but expect announcements to be made in the next several weeks about the filling of positions.

Dr. Oliver re-iterated the makeup of the multi-county units with Cook remaining as a single county due to its size. The new configurations have resulted in some very largely populated units. Directors of these units have been identified, and offer letters will be going out soon. Late next week or the week after we will be notifying the educators about their positions. There will first be a verbal conversation, and then letters are sent. It becomes official once the letter is signed and returned. Educators have been identified, but need to first be approved on campus. Salaries will remain the same or go up.

**Personnel Update**

The Northeast Region had about eight people who left under the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP). Several people have left Extension after finding other jobs.

July 1, 2011, is the latest date for a staff member to start a new position, but some may start as soon as November or December 1. Educators who have not been placed will be employed until their contracts expire; most expire June 30, 2011. Extension employed 180 professional staff and some were given a six month notice and others 12, based on date of employment. Currently there are 135 positions statewide that will be filled.

Civil Service staff changes are yet another element. In January and February we will see the new Unit Directors implement the personnel plans they submitted. The university is working with the union (AFSCME) on issues such as the cluster system.

**Fiscal**

Extension had received about half of its trust funds for FY10. We don’t know if we will receive the rest.

**Office Closures**

Schuckert asked about the closing of county offices. Oliver explained that at first this was considered, but it was decided that each county will need to have a presence. Counties also need the funds to have an office, so it may become a local issue.

When Grundy County, currently in the Northwest Region, joins with Kankakee and Will, the new unit configuration will become part of the Northeast Region.

Regions will be reduced from five to three.

**State Advisory Council Report**—Tanesha Pittman

Pittman has been appointed as the new chair of the State Extension Advisory Council (ESAC). Wayne Mundsinger is a new member of this council as is Jim King from the Northwest Region,
Carolyn Willenburg from East Central, and Larry Boyd from Southern. The next meeting is October 11 and 12 at the I-Hotel in Urbana.

Among the issues Pittman plans on introducing to ESAC will be food deserts (and the work done by the City Produce Project) and rumors of county offices closing. Please send her any other issues or concerns you would like to have addressed by ESAC.

County Board Match is a concern for counties. New units will be asked to cover some expenses they didn’t previously. $10 million has been budgeted for CBM for FY11.

**Other**
The difficulty in managing individual county budgets within a multi-county office was discussed. They will have to be accountable to individual county boards and other stakeholders for funds derived from their assets. Whereas Directors will be paid by county funds, educators are paid from a mix of federal, state and local dollars. County boards will need to be informed of this. Discussion followed.

It was moved (Kosmach) and seconded (Mundsinger) to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Friday, April 1, 2011, at the Countryside Center in Countryside.