

Minutes of the Saline County Extension Board

January 24, 2024

The meeting of the Saline County Extension Board was called to order at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, by Austin Nicholson. The roll was called. Present were Ross Weber, Austin Nicholson, Gary Baxa, Kay Kottas, Johanna Pesante-Daniel (DEI Liaison), and Phil Hardenberger (County Commissioner). Staff present were Maddie Werner, Melanie Kunc, Becky Vales, Nathan Mueller, and Ingrid Lindal.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ross Weber and seconded by Gary Baxa. Motion carried. Minutes of the past meeting were approved (October 25, 2023). Melanie Kunc gave the treasurers report. Forty-two percent of the budget was spent by the end of December, 2023. Gary Baxa made a motion to approve the Treasurers report and Ross Weber seconded. Motion carried.

Program Area Reports

Dr. Mueller presented highlights of an extensive written report including 3500 in person contacts for the year and the Winter Wheat Works Initiative. Ingrid Lindal reported on Early Childhood programs including partnering with Sixpence for Block Party and presenting CHIME at a conference on education in Hawaii. Maddie Werner reported on 4-H development including an after-school program at the library that measured incredible success. The upcoming months are heavy in school enrichment activities.

Ingrid reminded members that Legislative day is February 6.

In other reports, the 4-H council is closing ballots for electing new council members. There was no report for the Ag Society. County Commissioner Phil Hardenberger reported that snow moving has been a County priority. DEI Liaison Johanna Pesante-Daniel gave an extensive report on activities of Public Health Solutions. Among the programs are a new Spanish language newspaper published by the Fairbury Journal and Tai-Chi classes among many others.

Old Business: None

New Business: 2024 Extension Board Officer Elections were held.

The new officers are the following:

President: Austin Nicholson, nominated by Kay Kottas

Vice President: Gary Baxa, nominated by Austin Nicholson

Treasurer: Kay Kottas, nominated by Gary Baxa

Secretary: Sandy Krivohlavek, nominated by Austin Nicholson

Meeting dates for 2024 were suggested for the third Wednesday of the months March, May, August, October, and December at 5:00 PM. Ingrid will finalize the schedule.

The application of Theresa Vernon for Extension board was reviewed. Ross Weber moved to accept the application. Gary Baxa seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kay Kottas and Ross Weber were assigned to the Financial Committee.

Dr. Mueller gave a review of the Annual Report which will be sent to the County Commissioners for the 2023 year.

Ross Weber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Gary Baxa. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM

Minutes submitted by
Kay Kottas, Treasurer