

**STATE EXTENSION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 23 & 24, 2021**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING ON ZOOM**  
**HOSTED BY UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

The meeting of February 23 and 24, 2021 was held virtually for the Extension delegates. State Extension Council officers, and administrators of the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky State University Extension participated virtually from the Embassy Suites in Lexington.

On February 23, 2021, at 3:30 pm, Dr. Kenneth Jones started the orientation for new delegates. The new delegates participated virtually. Dr. Jones welcomed new delegates and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the State Extension Council. Dr. Jones went over the mission of Extension, which is to enhance the quality of life of people in Kentucky by helping them with resources and education. He said delegates are to provide input to Extension programs and serve as ambassadors for Extension. The new delegates were Jerrie Cossett of Lawrence County, Will Tucker of Breckinridge County, Mary Buckeroe of Lewis County, Keith Jeffries of Henry County, and Lonzo Ballew of Madison County, Leroy Ballew of Madison County, Jeanie Campbell of Henry County, Linda Ciccoli of Hancock County, Susan Miller of Lincoln County, David Rings of Russell County and Debbie Zuerner of Daviess County.

Dr. Laura Stephenson from UK, Dr. Courtney Owens from KSU, President Ann Porter, Vice-President Karen Hill and Secretary Juan Pena, and UK Extension Administrators Natasha Lucas, Anna Porter, Daniel Wilson, and Kim Henken were present at the orientation.

The orientation ended at 4:00 PM

**February 24, 2021**

At 9:00 AM, President Ann Porter of Mason County started the meeting. She welcomed everyone to the 2021 Winter meeting of the State Extension Council. She thanked everyone for their flexibility for attending the meeting in the virtual format and thanked everyone for their commitment and support to Extension. She introduced the Executive Committee of the State Extension Council and asked Vice-President Karen Hill from Henderson County and Secretary Juan Pena from Shelby County to introduce themselves.

President Ann Porter encouraged delegates to become more familiar with the philosophy of Extension and become better acquainted with the UK and KSU Staff. She said the goal of the meeting is to prepare delegates to be better advocates and to aid public relations for Kentucky Extension and to advise on Extension programs to better serve the citizens of Kentucky.

President Porter introduced Dr. Laura Stephenson, Associate Dean & Director of Extension at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Stephenson thanked all the delegates for their work and

dedication and commitment to Extension. She said that Extension will have an 8 percent budget cut due to COVID-19. This equals \$3.5 million dollars. She added that current openings may not be impacted. She said that Kentucky State University may have funds for Extension to offset the loss from University of Kentucky.

Dr. Stephenson also shared information about the proposed new structure of the State Extension Council. She said that it would go from 48 delegates to 42 delegates. The new structure shall ensure that Extension continues to address the needs for the communities. She said that Extension is ready to implement the new structure. The structure should help Extension to meet the needs of the communities.

Dr. Stephenson also shared that Dr. Nancy Cox, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment at the University of Kentucky, has been asked to join President Capilouto's Cabinet as the Vice-President for Land Grant Engagement. Dr. Cox could not attend the Extension meeting because she had to give a report to the UK Board of Trustees. Dr. Stephenson said that having Dr. Cox in the president's cabinet will give Extension a higher profile at the University of Kentucky.

President Porter introduced Dr. Courtney Owens, the Interim Associate Extension Administrator for the College of Agriculture, Communities, and the Environment & Cooperative Extension Program at Kentucky State University. Dr. Owens thanked delegates for their service. He said that KSU has posted new positions for Extension and has enough funds to hire more Extension staff. The new hiring of KSU staff may help with the loss of staff from UK budget cuts. Dr. Owens said that he will work with regional directors to see where new hiring is most needed.

President Porter introduced Dr. Kirk Pomper, Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture, Communities, and the Environment at the Kentucky State University and Director of KSU Land Grant Programs. Dr. Pomper participated virtually. He welcomed and thanked all delegates. He gave an update of KSU Extension programs. He also mentioned about available funds to hire new staff for Extension Offices.

President Porter asked Area Extension Directors (AEDs) to introduce themselves and introduce the delegate(s) joining them at their site.

Dr. Ken Jones, UK Director of Program & Staff Development led group discussions. The discussion was about making Extension more relevant to the community and how to ensure that Extension continues to further its work. It was suggested to work closely with the media, and to have virtual half-day meetings four times a year. Area directors can work closely with delegates and spend more time with county Extensions to learn their needs.

Lunch was served around 11:30am.

Dr. Jeffrey Young, Director for Urban Extension for the University of Kentucky, led the discussion to understand the perception of Extension during the pandemic. He asked questions on how Extension can be of even better service. There were comments that

Extension quickly adapted and used technology to continue their services to the community. Extension used Zoom to hold their meetings and started new outreach programs. It was also noted that there is a need to have trainings to use technology. It was mentioned that technology could not replace the importance of human contact. It was stated that human contact is still necessary and important for many people.

At 1:12 pm, President Porter called the business meeting to order. She explained the guidelines of the virtual meeting and she asked delegates to write in the “chat” to be recognized for any questions or comments. For any motions requiring a vote, she asked the area extension districts to count the “yes” and “no” and post it in the chat. For any delegate joining individually was asked to post “yes” or “no” in the chat.

President Porter explained that each year Extension presents awards to individuals and teams who are doing exceptional work in the area of diversity. These awards are usually presented during the banquet. Since there was not a banquet, the awards were presented during the business meeting. Dr. Mia Farrell, Assistant Dean for Diversity in the UK College of Agriculture Food and Environment, could not attend the meeting to present the awards. However, she prepared a video to announce and recognize the winners. She said that ten nominations were submitted. President Porter thanked all the judges for their work to select the winners of the awards.

The individual award was presented to Cathy Fellows, Nutrition Extension Program Assistant, of Boone County. She was awarded for work at Brighton Women's Recovery Center in Florence, Kentucky. This is a drug and alcohol facility. Ms. Fellows offered a series of nutrition classes that became very successful. The participants learned about healthy eating and about the various Extension programs. She has helped 16 to 20 women. The individual award provided a monetary amount of \$500.00.

The team award was presented to Christian County Extension, whose team members were virtually present. The members of the team are Jeremiah Johnson, Tiffany Bolinger, Kaitlyne Metsker, and Mary Anne Garnett. This team was recognized for their creative work to reach out to 1,500 families with diverse backgrounds, including immigrants. They prepared weekly 4-H educational Family project grab-bags for families in response to all in person programming being stopped because of COVID-19. The bags contained supplies and materials to benefit the entire family. The Extension partnered with Christian Public Schools. The team award provided a monetary amount of \$1,000.00

President Porter asked for the approval of the minutes for the August 11, 2020 meeting. Secretary Pena said the minutes for the August 11, 2020 meeting were emailed to all delegates prior to the meeting. Curtis Rosser of Mason County made a motion to adopt the minutes as written. Tim Karn of Ohio County seconded to adopt the minutes as written. The motion carried.

For old business, President Porter invited Dr. Laura Stephenson, Associate Dean & Director of Extension at the University of Kentucky, to give an update about the restructuring of Extension. Dr. Stephenson said the proposed structure is the result of the input from

delegates and stake holders of Extension. The new structure will be a total of 42 delegates. This is down from 48 delegates in the current structure. The delegates will come from the following: One (1) Delegate per area (total of 24; there would be an alternate in each area to represent at meetings if the delegate cannot attend); four (4) delegates appointed by Extension Administration (2 - UK and 2-KSU); two (2) delegates selected to represent each program area (4-H, ANR, FCS, CEDIK; total of 8), and Six (6) delegates for Kentucky State University (2 delegate per region).

President Porter formed a committee to work on the bylaws of Extension to align with the structural change in Extension. She appointed the following delegates: Jean Rapp of Pendleton County, Curtis Rosser of Kentucky State University, Jeff Zinner of Franklin County, and President Ann Porter of Mason County. The bylaws committee would only need to amend the bylaws to reflect the new process for appointing delegates and its recommendation will be voted on in the summer meeting. All questions about the bylaws shall be submitted 30 days prior to the Fall meeting in August 2021.

President Porter noted that Extension needs to elect new officers. She formed a nominating committee to elect new officers. The members of committee are Virginia Hansel of Rockcastle County, Marcia Duncan of Shelby County, Eddie Boone of Caldwell County, and President Ann Porter of Mason County as the president of the committee. The committee will present their recommendation in the summer meeting.

President Porter announced that the summer meeting will be hosted by Kentucky State University on August 17, 2021 in hopes that the meeting will be held in person. It will depend on the status of COVID 19.

President Porter adjourned the business meeting at 1:32 pm (EDT).

Notes and the minutes of the business meeting are provided by State Extension Secretary Juan Pena of Shelby County.