

Minutes
The University of Missouri Extension Council in Platte County
May 4th, 2026

The regular meeting of the University of Missouri Extension Council in Platte County via Zoom.

Members Present: Scott Wilkerson, Sarah Parker, Justin Parker, Sharon Warren, Matt Burris, Tiffany Burris, Bobby McGee, Danelle McGee,

Members Absent: Cierra Halbirt, Chris Kempke, James DePriest, Joe Vanover

Staff Present: GK Callahan, Marilyn Whitacre, Todd Higgins, Emily Wills. Molly Baurain

Master Gardener: Carolyn Vellar

Minutes: The meeting minutes from the April meeting had a motion to approve by Sharon and seconded by Scott Wilkerson, with the following correction to the minutes made by Scott Wilkerson: 3rd bullet under the “Updates from EMGPC” section should read: “In addition, KCMO Park, home of the KC north miniature railroad reached out to master gardeners this past July to convert 2.5 acres of grassland into flowers” (instead of 305 acres). Minutes approved with this correction.

Treasurer’s Report:

Scott requested a detailed line-item financial report moving forward (including QuickBooks/budget through actual reports). GK to provide this follow up to the members after the meeting. Marilyn will work with GK and Cierra to ensure detailed financial reports (including check and deposit details, balance reports, and subaccount breakdowns) are provided to Council monthly.

Carry Over Business and New Business

- Budget: Sharon moved to approve the budget. Scott seconded. The Council approved the budget.
- World Cup: Our group is no longer being asked to attend the celebration in Riverside, so volunteers are no longer needed. They wanted soccer focused efforts at the event, not universities. Other universities were not pleased that MU was there and no other universities.
- Bobby requested a timeline leading up to the county and state fair regarding growth of 4H programs outside of just the gardening program. Emily left the zoom meeting and was not available for further comment. The Council suggested exploring a regional 4-H fair in Platte County due to its available fairgrounds, which could better serve the three-county area.
- GK provided an update on the Dorothy Day cabin, noting that the recent residency with Allison Bowman was successful and that she will be conducting a community college workshop at the Mid-Continent Public Library in Riverside with 20 registrations already confirmed.
- GK will request that Tim Tanner attend the next Council meeting and provide a progress update regarding 4-H and agricultural programming.
- Marilyn will send out a request to Council members to volunteer as judges for the Platte County Fair 4-H events on July 17th.
- GK will add Bobby to the Urban West marketing work group meetings and ensure he receives invitations to support Platte County’s representation of the tri-county marketing workgroup.

- Scott noted interest in a logo unique to what the Extension represents, since councils do not currently have their own entity separate from the university for correspondence purposes. GK reported that a district marketing workgroup had developed new slogans and logos, but MU's branding team rejected the proposals due to concerns about logo manipulation and unauthorized use. GK will follow up with the marketing work group and report back to Council on the status of logo/branding options and any updates from MU/IMC.

Staff Reports and Regional Updates

EMGPC updates:

- Molly Bain, the Horticulture educator in the Urban West region, presented an overview of the Extension Master Gardener program's activities in 2025 and early 2026. She highlighted the program's impact, including nearly 13,000 service hours, 1,500 education hours, and 260 active volunteers, along with community outreach efforts such as presentations, a hotline, and youth programs. Molly also discussed the success of community gardens, yielding 6,582 pounds of produce in 2025, and the revamp of the Extension Garden Steward Program, which included expanding it to Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties. She mentioned ongoing and upcoming events, including the search for a second location for a five-week course in June.
- Scott reported strong results from the recent plant sale, generating \$18,351 in revenue with 572 attendees, and noted that native plants, tomatoes, peppers, and annual flowers were particularly popular. The remaining unsold plants will be donated to various programs including 4-H and Mimi's, as well as the railroad's 7,500 square foot planting project.
 - Scott requested a vote or resolution to approve a checking account as a subaccount (that the Council would have direct oversight to all funds) for designated signers of the EMGPC for efficiency purposes. Per GK, this is a common practice, and there is a set max limit for expenditures. GK motioned to table the discussion for now until state guidelines are released, and revisit in 1-2 months. Sharon seconded. Council approved.

4-H Project:

- The council approved \$20 for soil testing to support Emily Wills' 4-H community-based growing project at Mimi's Pantry, which involves 15 families and aims to teach sustainable agricultural practices to youth.

Scott moved to adjourn at 7:13, Sharon seconded. The next meeting is June 1, 2026, at 6 pm in person at Platte County Library.