

OFFICE OF THE IL LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
 Governor's Rural Affairs Council
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes -- draft
 August 8th, 2019

A majority of current members of the Council shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 12				
Position	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
Chair				
Chair, Lt. Governor	Juliana Stratton	x		
Ex-Officio				
Dept. on Aging	Jose Jimenez	x		
Dept. of Agriculture	Robert Baren	x		
Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	Wendy Bell		x	
	Erika Kennett		x	
	Agnes Masnik	x		
Dept. of Employment Security	Jeff Fulgenzi	x		
Dept. of Human Services	Francisco Alvarado		x	
Dept. of Natural Resources	Rachel Torbert	x		
Dept. of Pub. Health	Don Jones	x		
Dept. of Transportation	Michael Vanderhoof			
	Holly Ostidick			
	Greg Lupton	x		
EPA	Amy Walkenbach			x
Community College Board	Lavon Nelson	x		
State Board of Ed	Susie Morrison		x	
U of I - Cooperative Extension Service	Anne Silvis	x		
Housing Development Authority	Melinda Koenig		x	
Southern IL University – Medical School	Laura Kessel		x	
Institute for Rural Affairs [WIU]	Christopher Merrett			x
Finance Authority	Charles Myart	x		
Nonprofit Member				

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Illinois Agricultural Association	Brenda Matherly			x
Rural Partners	Molly Hammond	x		
Citizen Member				
Citizen Mem.	Heather Knodle	x		
Citizen Mem.	Larry Richards	x		
Citizen Mem.	Sonja Reece	x		
Citizen Mem.	Doug Hanks			
Citizen Mem.	Luke Allen			x
Other				
University of Illinois - Center for Prevention Research and Development	Karen Jenkins	x		
Senior Advisor (NIU)	Norm Walzer	x		
USDA	Doug Wilson	x		
Lt. Governor's Staff				
Chief of Staff	Charles Watkins	x		
General Counsel	Dartesia Pitts	x		
Policy Director	Robert Mannis	x		
External Affairs Coordinator	Janelle Gurnsey	x		

21 members present; quorum established.

1. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to order at 10:38 AM

- Roll taken and quorum established

2. Approval of meeting agenda for August 8th, 2019 and meeting minutes from May 16th, 2019

- Agenda for August 8th, 2019
 - Moved by [name not captured]
 - Seconded by Sonja Reece
 - Passed
- Minutes from May 16th, 2019
 - Moved by Larry Richards
 - Seconded by Sonja Reece
 - Passed

3. Chairwoman's remarks

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- Lt. Governor Stratton's remarks
 - State Fair support
 - Thanks to Dr. Merrett
 - Main Street update
 - Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan
 - Effective team building in the Council
- Chancellor Koch's (University of IL, Springfield) remarks

4. New business

- **Lt. Governor Stratton**
 - Illinois Rural Development Council's 30th Anniversary
 - Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan – \$450M plan to support broadband expansion and infrastructure in rural areas across the State
 - The Council will specialize on matters through committees that focus on specific issue areas
 - **Robert Mannis** explains committees and purpose
 - Committees: Education, Health & Health Care, and Economic Development & Infrastructure
 - Goals: Policy making or legislative recommendations
 - What's the best structure to do the business of the State and to help the people of Rural Illinois?
 - **Lavon Nelson**
 - Recommends a Workforce Development committee
 - **Jose Jimenez**
 - Agrees
 - **Heather Knodle**
 - Recommends that Education should include Workforce Development
 - **Doug Wilson**
 - It's important to remain cognizant of broadband issues. Requesting an ex-officio member serve on the Broadband Advisory Council
 - **Sonja Reese**
 - Wants broadband to be focused on healthcare and telehealth
 - **Karen Jenkins**
 - Daycare should be included as an issue area
 - **Norm Walzer**
 - We should get the committee reports from previous council members
 - **Heather Knodle**
 - How will the committees be staffed? How do we operationalize and get results?
 - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
 - Everything discussed won't materialize. But my staff will work with the committees to help move things forward. We need to have mutual accountability for each other
 - **Charles Myart**
 - How do we weave veterans' concerns into some of the Council's work?
 - **Rob Baron**
 - 2 new issues from the Dept. of Agriculture relating to economic development: (1) hemp is growing, and (2) cannabis
 - **Jeff Fulgenzi**

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- GRAC advocated for industrialized hemp and the legalization will dramatically change rural communities. This introduces emerging industries
 - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
 - I like “emerging industries;” allows for cross pollination
- Motion to approve committees with the amendment to the Education Committee to become the Education and Workforce Development Committee
 - Raised by Sonja Reece
 - Seconded by Lauren Nelson
 - Passed
- The agreed upon committees are:
 - Education & Workforce Development
 - Economic Development & Infrastructure
 - Health & Healthcare

5. Member updates

- **Larry Richards**
 - Pope county update
 - The Lieutenant Governor came down; went to the shrimp pond; went to visit individuals to see how they live; discovered issues with the water; need money so we can get the people of Pope County clean water
 - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
 - The State will host a hearing to discuss issues about access to water
 - **Charles Myart**
 - There exists \$540 M for water infrastructure bond with IFA
 - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
 - What's the problem and where are the resources to address it?
 - **Wendy Bell**
 - Community Block Grant is the 51% which may be an issue. Looking at low-to-moderate income in these areas
 - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
 - The Census will be critical to the resources for the rural area. It starts April 1st, 2020. Rural communities have to be counted. A special committee may be necessary for this
 - My staff will send the link about NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) out to council members
- **Molly Hammond**
 - Illinois Rural Development Council's 30th Anniversary celebration is on August 20
- **Jose Jimenez**
 - Connect Illinois dealing with social isolation issues; social isolation is similar to smoking 15 cigarettes/day
 - *Passed out additional info*
 - Lt. Governor Stratton is invited to help kick off their services
- **Lt. Governor Stratton**
 - Updated GRAC on the Through our Eyes Initiative to end Alzheimer's Disease
- **Lavon Nelson**
 - \$4M grant from DOL received
 - For thought: how can apprenticeships help agriculture workers?
- **Sonja Reece**

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- FCC announcement about broadband; talk to your congressional delegation so that they know we need the funds related to broadband
- *Passed out additional info relating to the digital space*
- **Lt. Governor Stratton**
 - Farm Progress show is August 27-29 in Decatur
 - I will be present on the first day of the show
- **Norm Walzer**
 - *Passed out policy documents*

6. Public comment

No request for public comment made

7. Adjournment

Motion made and seconded to adjourn
Passed; meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM