



AMC Extension Committee Meeting
Monday, December 5, 2011
7:30 A.M. – Minnehaha Room- 2nd Floor - Hyatt Regency Hotel
Minneapolis Minnesota

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Commissioners John Baerg, John Lerohl, Joe Wollak, Sharon Bring, Jon Evert, Marv Zylstra, Richard Larson, Bob Kangas, David Benson, Patty Beckel, Frank Jewell, Dick Mattson, James “Corky” Ebeling, Nancy Schouweiler, Victoria Reinhardt, Marcia Ward, Randy Maluchnik
County Guests: Commissioners Autumn Lehrke, Rosemary Schultz, Bill Montague, Rich Hall, Betty Younggren and Lauren Borden, Auditor Treasurer
Extension Guests: Bev Durgan, David Werner, Sarah Greening, Aimee Viniard Weideman, Holli Arp, Sarah Chur, LuAnn Hiniker, Karen Oberhauser

- Meeting Called To Order - Welcome, Commissioner Marcia Ward, AMC Extension Committee Chair
- Additions to the agenda – Commissioner Mattson requested time to discuss a 4-H topic.
- Update on future staff changes – Toni Smith retired from Extension on December 3, 2011 after 35 years of service. She will begin her new position as Education Director at AMC on January 3, 2012
- Commissioner Ward discussed the need for a subcommittee to discuss the memorandum of agreement between MN counties and the U. of MN Extension for 2013. This process starts early in the year with the final decision made at the March 21, 2012 AMC Extension Committee meeting. The following commissioners were appointed to the committee:
 - Nancy Schouweiler (Dakota)
 - Victoria Reinhardt (Ramsey)
 - Jon Evert (Clay)
 - David Benson (Nobles)
 - Richard Larson (Kandiyohi)
- AMC 4-H Community Youth Leadership Awards (Award given at March Legislative Conference – Applications due on February 9, 2012. Judges this year will be:
 - Marv Zylstra
 - Sharon Bring
 - Richard Larson
 - Frank Jewell
 - Randy Maluchnik
 - Stephanie Miranowski
- AMC Extension Committee Chair and Vice Chair leadership nominations will be named at the February AMC Extension Committee meeting. Voting to occur at the March 21, 2012 meeting.

- University of Minnesota Extension Program Update; Bev Durgan, Dean, University of MN Extension
 - Updated the group on the early retirement incentive
 - Closing of Hutchinson and Fergus Falls Regional Centers
 - Meetings with Eric Kaler, the new University of MN President
 - Update on the search for four new regional directors who will be located in Moorhead, Willmar, Brainerd and the metro area.
 - Update on the Blue Ribbon Report process that the CEC participated in last year. This report has been used in the development of the Extension strategic plan.

- Update on the Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) with Counties
David Werner, Extension Chief Operating Officer

David shared with the committee the MOA staffing levels for 2011 and the responses that were coming in from counties thus far in regard to calendar year 2012 MOA staffing intentions. At the time of the meeting MOA's were in place for 2012 from just over 60 counties. Of those counties, one county was intending to increase staffing levels, two counties showed a minor reduction planned and the remaining 57 counties were planning staffing at 2011 levels. (FYI - following the meeting and prior to publishing of these minutes the remaining MOA's have been processed with the end results showing two counties being up in MOA levels over 2011, five counties decreased MOA levels and 79 counties maintained 2011 MOA levels). Additionally it was shared that 60% of counties have chosen to go with a three year MOA while the remaining 40% choose to use a one year MOA

- Extension Program Snapshot: Master Naturalist Program – Karen Oberhauser, Extension Specialist

AMC committee members learned more about this program that is designed for people with a passion for sharing their love of nature with others. The program provides training for individuals who volunteer in a variety of settings throughout the state—environmental learning centers; interpretive facilities; state, county, and city parks; national wildlife refuges; schools; museums; and zoos. Over 130,810 hours has been donated in volunteer service statewide.

- Future Role of County Extension Committees (CEC) - Holli Arp, Sarah Chur and LuAnn Hiniker, Extension Regional Directors

AMC Extension Committee members shared their candid perspective on the importance of the CEC role in Minnesota counties; answering questions using the handheld voting technology. The group discussed opportunities for county Extension committees to increase their leadership and influence within each county. The synopsis of their vote can be found at the end of the minutes.

- Meeting adjourned at 9:20 A.M.
- Next meeting on February 1, 2012 – conference call

Minutes submitted by Toni Smith

Following is a synopsis of the results of an exercise conducted at this meeting with committee members using the handheld voting technology to assess selection, involvement and training of county CEC members.

The CEC in my county is active and involved in a broad range of Extension programming?	Yes 82%
	No 18%
When appointing new members to the CEC in my county the following applies:	
1.It is easy to find people to serve on this committee	60%
1.It is difficult to find people to accept the position	40%
When appointing new members to the county Extension committee in my county I consider:	
1.4-H Background	64%
2.Ag Background	50%
3.Gender Balance	27%
4.Knowledge across multiple areas in Extension	59%
5.New and Emerging Populations	27%
6.Community Involvement/Leadership	50%
7.Other	14%
I believe that the CEC in my county needs the following assistance	
1.No assistance – they work well	21%
2.Training on marketing and Advocating for Extension in the county	63%
3.Leadership training – we expect them to be an example of what works well	32%
4.We need fewer committees in the county and the state – including Extension	5%
5.Other	16%
Do you believe a Regional Extension Committee concept should be considered in your area of the state?	
1.Yes	26%
2.No	11%
3.Depends on the purpose	63%
Do you believe we should explore conducting one or more CEC meetings via technology?	
1.Yes, if there was training for CEC members.	19%
2.Yes, If there were conference call options for people who were not comfortable using the computer.	57%
3.No, I do not believe that committee members have the skills or computer access to make this work.	5%
4.No, but I am open to Extension Staff joining via technology	10%
5.Other	10%
Besides the ongoing pressure for funding in all public sector programs - What do you believe is the biggest issue facing local county Extension programming?	
1.Visibility of Extension programs and impact	65%
2.Quality of Programming	10%
3.Programming needs surpass staff time to deliver	20%
4.Other	5%