



AMC Extension Committee Meeting

Monday, December 6, 2010

Marsh Room - Conference Center - St. Cloud, Minnesota

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Commissioner Marcia Ward, AMC Chair

- Introductions – Committee members were asked to introduce themselves and answer the following question: ***“What are the top one or two social, economic or environmental issues that you see citizens tackling in your county that may be addressed by Extension?”***
 - ***List of responses:*** Alternative energy, leadership and innovative ways of changing government systems, saving small town main streets, help with current government structure that is not sustainable, funding cut backs to non-profits have caused issues for many, economic development because we are losing young people in community, help with recruiting professionals to rural communities – coming back home, energy and resources, problems with economic cut backs, programming for youth as alternative to jail, bringing fiber optic cable into rural areas, health care for seniors, renewable energy, modern day communications for rural areas, increase in number of vacant homes in the community, 4-H and the deterioration of the traditional family – 4-H can be so valuable, NW in need of employees but hard to find homes on salary levels, land prices increasing causes issues, loss of funding to non profits dealing with homelessness, finding enough food for low income.
 - ***Commissioners present:*** Tom Anderson, Patricia Beckel, John Lerohl, Sharon Bring, Stephanie Miranowski, Jon Evert, Richard Mattson, Richard Larson, Doug Anderson, John Baerg, Charles Woehler, Loren Tusa, Marv Zylstra, David Benson, Marcia Ward, James Ebeling, Victoria Reinhardt, Nancy Schouweiler and Randy Maluchnik.
 - Commissioner Reinhardt, AMC Extension Committee vice chair introduced Commissioner Randy Maluchnek as the new delegate from District X replacing Commissioner Pulchrabek whose term is up in 2010. Commissioner Lerohl from Red Lake County is also a new member who will be taking Commissioner Oakland’s place from District III.
 - ***Guests:*** Bev Durgan, David Werner, Lee Raeth, Aimee Viniard-Weideman, Dick Senese, Sarah Greening, Nathan Crane, LuAnn Hiniker, Adeel Ahmed
- Commissioner Ward requested any additions to the agenda. Hearing none moved on to meeting minutes.
- Review of the committee minutes from September 2, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Larson moved to accept minutes, Commissioner Reinhardt seconded motion. Motion carried.

8:00 Update from Bev Durgan, Dean, University of Minnesota Extension

Bev Durgan updated the committee on the appointment of Dr. Eric Kaler, the new President of the University of Minnesota. The Board of Regents unanimously supported his appointment and he will take office on July 1, 2011, when President Robert H. Bruininks returns to the faculty.

The Dean discussed the promotion process for local educators which will start in 2011. This gives local educators the opportunity to advance in academic rank. She also discussed her desire to meet with the AMC Extension Committee at their January 31 meeting in St. Cloud to complete a facilitated discussion about the programming in Extension. Extension will provide the facilitator and committee members will receive additional details in early January about location and time. Committee members were asked to tentatively hold 10:00 am. to 2:30 p.m. on January 31 for the meeting.

Bev Durgan then asked David Werner, Extension Chief Operations Officer, to give an MOA update. He stated that 60% of the counties have historically signed a 3 year agreement and 40% have signed a 1 year agreement. All but five of these expire in 2010 and regional directors are working with county Extension committee members, county administrators and county commissioners to get them finalized. Mr. Werner stated, “ as of Friday, December 3, 39 had been submitted and this is usually where we are at with submission levels at this time of year. Of those 39, 34 came in at the same staffing level, 1 increased and 4 had slight reductions.”

Commissioner Ward asked the committee for recommendation for members to be appointed to the MOA sub-committee. This committee represents the AMC Extension committee in reviewing data and making the initial recommendations for the statewide MOA. The committee then makes a report and recommendation for full committee discussion and vote at the March 2011 AMC Extension committee meeting. The following people were appointed to the committee: Commissioners Nancy Schouweiler, Victoria Reinhardt, Richard Larson, and Jon Evert. David Werner will be contacting the subcommittee members about additional meetings to discuss the MOA.

Bev Durgan distributed a one page overview about Extension that included the total budget schematic. (This handout is posted on the Extension segment of the AMC website.) She noted that 21% of Extension’s total funding comes from Minnesota counties. She stated that Minnesota Counties are still a very important partner in Extension. She also emphasized that Extension has worked hard to diversify funding having increased the percentage of grant and other outside funding by 19% over the last year.

Commissioner Ward thanked the Dean for her presentation and asked if there were any questions from the group. How much has federal and state funding dropped? Federal funding has been level over the last few years but we anticipate it dropping in the future. State funding has dropped. Extension took an 11% cut in state funding which was close to 4 million. Extension has brought administrative operating cost below 10%. She stated that there may be a need to merge more of the regional offices. She would rather do that to save funding than lay off staff.

At the August AMC Extension Committee meeting the committee asked for a program on Extension programming in the area of technology assistance for communities. Adeel Ahmed, Extension Community Economics Educator presented the following program.

Tapping GPS Markets: Do businesses or local governments in your county have a sign on the digital superhighway? A transformation has taken place; people are aborting their desktop computers in favor of mobile hand held computers such as iPhone, Android, and Blackberry. Extension educational workshops can benefit businesses and government in your region by linking with the 100 million people in the United States using this technology.

Video Clip Review of Horizons Program Success Stories: Dick Senese, Extension Associate Dean, Community Vitality discussed and showed the group one of the new video clips highlighting the impact

of the Horizons program in Minnesota. These videos are available online at the Extension website:
<http://www.youtube.com/UofMNEExt#p/c/778CE927E90B64C8/0/qGVy6rtMmzs>

120 communities were eligible for this program and grant funding enabled work with 32 of these communities. For further information on the Horizons program link to the following Extension website:
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/community/Horizons/>

Extension Booth: Nathan Crane and LuAnn Hiniker, regional directors from Mankato and Rochester outlined what was included in this year's Extension booth at the AMC conference. They used the input submitted by the committee at the prior meeting and they focused on the food and nutrition program and research on cancer prevention foods. They encouraged committee members to stop at the booth and learn more about the programs.

Bev Durgan reinforced the importance of commissioner and auditor participation on local extension committees which is outlined in the state statute. Their representation on the committee gives them specific opportunity for input and it helps keep them informed about the Extension programming in their county, region and state.

Commissioner Ward asked the following out going committee members to come forward to be recognized for their commitment to service on the AMC Extension committee. Commissioners Tom Anderson, Charles Woehler, Loren Tusa. Commissioner also going off the committee but unable to be at the meeting were Velma Oakland, Robert Carlson, Bill Pulkrabek.

Commissioner Zylstra moved to adjourn meeting, Commissioner Schouweiler seconded the motion. Motion passed. Commissioner Ward adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Toni Smith
AMC Extension Liaison

UPCOMING AMC EXTENSION COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:

- January 31, 2011 – St. Cloud
- March 23, 2011 during the AMC Legislative Conference
- Late August or Early September – State Fair Meeting
- December 5, 2011 during the AMC Annual Conference