



AMC Extension Committee Meeting MINUTES

8:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. - Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Crowne Plaza Hotel – Governors 2 & 3E

Present:

Commissioners Marcia Ward, David Benson, Jon Evert, Dick Mattson, Nancy Schouweiler, Marv Zylstra, Patty Beckel, Bob Kangas, Corky Ebling, Joe Wollak, Dick Larson, Sharon Bring, John Baerg, John Lerohl and Victoria Reinhardt.

Guests: Commissioners Rosemary Schultz, and Dave Henkels. Laurie Klupac, AMC Member Services Director.
Extension Staff: Bev Durgan, David Werner, Aimee Viniard Weideman, Nathan Crane, LuAnn Hiniker, and Toni Smith

Commissioner Marcia Ward, AMC Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler asked for an addition to the agenda. She requested time to discuss the communication between the University and Counties when local positions were transitioning.

Commissioner Ward asked for a review of the committee minutes from the January 31 meeting. (Posted on AMC/Extension Website: http://www.mncounties.org/Affiliated_Organizations/extension/extension.html)

Motion to approve minutes by Commissioner Marv Zylstra and seconded by Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, motion carried.

Update from Bev Durgan, Dean, University of Minnesota Extension

- University of Minnesota Extension Blue Ribbon Report – The Dean thanked the committee members for participating in the January 31 planning meeting in St. Cloud. The final report was emailed to all AMC Extension committee members. Please contact Aimee Viniard Weideman if you did not receive a copy. The University and Extension will be looking at long term strategies and priorities. The new University President, Dr. Eric Kaler, will be using this information when working through University planning and budgeting over the several years.
- University of Minnesota EDEN Flood Response. EDEN stands for Extension Disaster Education Network and it was activated and publicized in Minnesota in response to the pending flood situation across the state. The flood website is live. MN is working with NDSU in this effort.
- Extension Budget: The federal budget is in continuing resolution. There is a proposed 14% cut in the house proposal and the Senate budget has an increase to Extension. 17% of the Minnesota Extension budget is generated through federal funds. On the state level we are seeing a 6% cut in the Governor's budget and a 14 to 19% proposed cut from the house and senate. State funding makes up about 40% of Extension's budget. Counties have provided pretty level funding and support. The Dean expressed her gratitude for the county support. She discussed the recent University RIO, Retirement Incentive Option. 40% of the Extension workforce is 55 years old or older. She stated that they may have a significant number of people retiring with this option.
- Bev Durgan introduced Nathan Crane and LuAnn Hiniker, Regional Directors and asked them to outline what would be featured in the booth at the AMC Legislative Conference. Nathan and LuAnn discussed the booth focus on 4-H youth development including Operation Military Kids. It also featured additional information on Extension resources to prepare for high water and dealing with the aftermath. They encouraged everyone to sign up for the Extension Lake Home and Cabin Kit that they would be giving away at the event.

- Commissioner Ward told the group that they were very pleased to hear positive feedback from a small business owner in Winona about the recent series of four technology classes for small businesses in Winona. This was the GPS program outlined at the December AMC Extension Committee meeting in St. Cloud.
- Nancy Schouweiler discussed her concerns in Dakota County with the communication around the transition of the master gardener program. The Dakota County board allocated money to facilitate a transition plan. The volunteers were disheartened about the transition process and Nancy would like the Dean to look into the situation. She stated she would do so and apologized for the communication problem.
- **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Current Overview:** David Werner, University of Minnesota Chief Operating Officer stated that a year ago this group discussed the MOA and to date 86 of the 87 counties have signed that MOA with the 87th county, Cook County, having an Extension presence in the county but no MOA. Of the 86 counties 62% have signed a three year agreement and 38% signed a one year agreement. When examining the changes from 2010 to 2011 you will see a reduction of 2.47 FTE's, full time equivalents. We were at 117.5 positions and we are now at 115 local positions. One half of that 2.47 decrease occurred midyear 2010 when there were vacancies in a county and they then reduced the time. This year there were 10 counties who reduced the funding, 2 counties increased their funding and the 74 remaining counties maintained funding.

Memorandum of Agreement AMC Extension Sub-Committee Recommendation: Chair: Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt and the other committee members; Commissioner Jon Evert, Commissioner Dick Larson and Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler worked with Extension and they were delighted to hear that the Dean was coming forward with a zero percent increase. Commissioner Reinhardt stated that when you consider the state resource reduction in the budget the impact on counties is dire. The U is experiencing the same thing and the committee was very happy to hear about the recommendation to accept a zero increase. Commissioner Reinhardt moved to accept the zero percent increase in the University/Counties MOA for 2012. Commissioner Larson seconded the motion. In discussion there was a question about what would happen if a person left the position. It was clarified that the county would not pay the contract if the person left the position. The group voted on the motion and it was accepted unanimously.

Commissioner Ward asked Toni Smith to outline the AMC 4-H Community Leadership Award winners. They were "Silence the Violence" project from Hennepin County and "Prom for the Disabled" from Douglas County.

Commissioner Ward outlined the upcoming meeting dates. The next meeting will be at the MN State Fair with a special program about 4-H at the fair. Committee members will be receiving this information this summer. The next meeting will be held on December 5 at the AMC Annual conference in Minneapolis.

Motion to adjourn by Nancy Schouweiler, seconded by Jon Evert. Motion carried.

The group then adjourned to the AMC Rural Development task force on broadband.

Sibley County Broadband Development Update

Mark Erickson, Winthrop Administrator

Mr. Erickson will update the committee on the development of a rural fiber to the home project that continues to proceed (the committee heard an initial presentation about the project during the September 2010 AGRDAC meeting). Other rural communities around the state may ultimately model future projects after this effort in and around Sibley County, and committee members will therefore monitor the project during development to better understand the barriers encountered and lessons learned.

Submitted by Toni Smith, University of Minnesota Extension Liaison