

**AMC Extension Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, December 8, 2008 - 7:30 a.m.**  
**GOOSEBERRY I**  
**DECC – Duluth, Minnesota**

**Commissioner Committee Members Present:** Keith Nelson, Lenore Johnson, Tom Anderson, Patricia Beckel, Stephanie Miranowski, Jon Evert, Bob Gustafson, Dick Mattson, Richard Larson, John Baerg, Charles Woehler, Loren Tusa, Marv Zylstra, David Benson, Marcia Ward, Victoria Reinhardt, Nancy Schouweiler

**Guests:** Extension Staff: Bev Durgan, Sarah Greening, Aimee Viniard Weideman, Lee Raeth, Sarah Chur, Nathan Crane, Holli Arp. AMC Staff: Jim Mulder  
County Commissioners

Marcia Ward, Winona County Commissioner and AMC Extension Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Dr. Bev Durgan, University of Minnesota Extension Dean, presented a program entitled “State of Extension” where she outlined the University of Minnesota Extension budget and program emphasis for the future. The group discussed the pending state budget deficit and the potential implications for county/state budget and Extension funding.

Lee Raeth, Extension Director of Field Operations presented an overview of the current MOA’s with counties. Mr. Raeth stated that well over ½ of the MOA’s are now 3 year agreements, with additional counties choosing that format this year. 35 counties submitted 1 year agreements in 2008 and 7 of these counties have sent in new MOA’s, with 3 of them going to 3 year agreements. 32 counties with three year agreements in 2008 have completed amendments for 2009. Amendments are required only when there is a change in a position percentage (up or down). Mr. Raeth stated that at this point changes coming in are relatively minor percentages both up and down. He also informed the group that Extension understands that counties are facing significant budget challenges next year and they anticipated additional conversations in some counties.

Commissioner Ward asked for several commissioners to serve on the MOA committee. This group will discuss the MOA agreement and present their findings to the committee at the February and April meetings. Committee members will consist of Victoria Reinhardt, Loren Tusa, Nancy Schouweiler, and Dick Larson.

Commissioner Ward asked for volunteers to serve on the AMC 4-H Youth Development Awards selection committee. The following people will serve on the judging committee; Commissioners Keith Nelson, Charlie Woehler, Loren Tusa, Sharon Bring and Tom Anderson.

Commissioner Nelson expressed concern over the process being developed for the advancement of local educators. He and the committee in St. Louis County are interested

in this being developed to assist in attracting top candidates in the future for local positions. Bev Durgan assured Commissioner Nelson that the process is back on track and she hopes to have additional information for the committee in the future.

There was discussion about the next committee meeting. AMC County Futures is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, February 5 & 6. The group's first preference is to have the meeting in St. Cloud but if it could be tied to the County Futures meeting they would agree to meet in St. Paul. The committee chair and vice chair will work with Toni Smith to find a date that fits for the majority of committee members. The next meeting will include election of chair and vice chair; report from the MOA committee and a program update. There will also be a committee meeting on April 8, 2009 during the AMC legislative conference.

Minutes submitted by Toni Smith, University of Minnesota Extension Liaison to AMC