

## **AMC Extension Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Joint meeting with the University of Minnesota Extension Citizens Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, September 2, 2010**

Location: University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center (UROC)  
2001 Plymouth Avenue N., Minneapolis

Present: Commissioners Marcia Ward, Sharon Bring, Nancy Schouweiler, Victoria Reinhardt, Richard Larson, John Baerg, David Benson. Guests: Lee Raeth, David Werner, Betty Larson  
Staff: Toni Smith and Laurie Klupacs

Commissioner Marcia Ward, AMC Extension Committee chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. at the UROC in Minneapolis.

John Baerg moved acceptance of the March AMC Extension Committee meeting minutes. Sharon Bring seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

The group discussed possible topics for the Extension booth at the AMC annual meeting in December at the St. Cloud Civic Center. Sharon Bring recommended something in the area of nutrition to follow the wellness efforts at the conference. She and other commissioners at the meeting had experienced county food and nutrition presentations by Extension nutrition assistants. She commented that the demonstrations they do showing the amount of sugar in soda was eye opening and may be a useful visual at the booth.

Dick Larson suggested that if we wanted a guest in the booth to draw support consider getting Dean Johnson to participate in the booth sometime during the day.

Commissioners also wondered if there some kind of award for walking that could be given out in the booth.

The commissioners were asked about topics they would like to learn more about at their upcoming AMC Extension committee meetings.

Recommendations from the group:

- GPS programming and geo cache programming in Extension. Possibly Adeel Amed from St. Cloud. Possibly ask him to stay in the booth after the morning program at the committee meeting.
- High tunnel gardening systems – Terry Neinich, Van Swanson and Carolyn Matz – Possibly do in February if it is not a conference call.

Committee members updated the group on Extension efforts in their area. David Benson said that there was a fundraising effort this summer in SW that generated \$5000 to support the summer intern position.

John Baerg expressed concern about how to respond to citizens questioning the cost per 4-Her with the Extension budget. He believes in the 4-H program but needs to have a more effective response to this question.

Marcia Ward talked about their summer intern working through AmeriCorps for effective after school programming.

Nancy Schouweiler talked about the work in her county around defining what they valued in the program. Their "On the Move" van and "Youth Teaching Youth" are effective strategies. The Master Gardener program is a good program but it did not come out on top in the list.

Ramsey County has somewhat expanded their Master Gardener coordinator contract to do work in composting.

Dick Larson stated that the Extension office in Kandiyohi is in the process of moving and they will have closer linkages with health and human services.

David Werner updated the group on the current status of the MOA's. At the end of 2010 all MOA contracts expire and will be reviewed for renewal. 60% of the counties have had a 3 year MOA and 40% a one year MOA. To date 13 counties have signed at the same level.

Commissioner Ward entertained a motion for adjournment so the group could join the citizen's advisory committee. Commissioner Larson moved to adjourn and Commissioner Benson seconded motion. Motion carried.

The group joined the Extension statewide Citizens Advisory Committee for an educational luncheon experience where they learned more about Operation Frontline Minnesota from CeAnn Klug, Program Coordinator. This program is offered in collaboration with Extension to help families build the skills and motivation to make lasting changes at home in making healthy food choices on limited resources. The AMC Extension Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee members experienced the same classroom training that the families experience in the program. They prepared their meal, learned about nutrition, food preparation and food buying. Volunteer chefs from across the Twin Cities teach the classes and additional volunteers assist in food buying and preparation.

Statistically nearly 17 million, or one in four children in the United States who live in households don't have access to enough nutritious foods for them to lead active and healthy lives.

After learning more about Extension food and nutrition programs the group toured the University Urban Research and Outreach Center (UROC) and they learned more about the programming occurring in this North Minneapolis University center.

The group then drove to the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus and took buses to the 4-H building on the grounds of the Minnesota State Fair where they were special guests at the 4-H Arts In Performance. This was followed with a dinner in the 4-H building where 4-H staff leaders explained some of the science and robotics programs in 4-H.

Minutes submitted by Toni Smith

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