

# AMC Extension Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting conducted during the AMC Legislative Conference

**Wednesday, March 24, 7:30 A.M. Crowne Plaza Hotel – St. Paul, Minnesota**

Present: Commissioners Tom Anderson, Robert Carlson, Sharon Bring, Jon Evert, Richard Mattson, Richard Larson, John Baerg, Charles Woehler, Loren Tusa, Marv Zylstra, David Benson, Marcia Ward, James Ebeling, Victoria Reinhardt, Nancy Schouweiler.

Guests: David Werner, Lee Raeth, Sarah Greening, Nancy Hegland, Betsy Wieland, Laura Kieser, Holli Arp and Nathan Crane

- **Meeting called to order** by Commissioner Marcia Ward, committee chair.
- **Reviewed minutes of last meeting** - conference call on February 8, 2010. These minutes are posted on the Extension section of the AMC website. Commissioner Loren Tusa made motion to approve minutes. Commissioner Schouweiler seconded motion. Motion passed.
- **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:** Commissioner Ward introduced Betsy Wieland, Hennepin County Agriculture Extension Educator and Laura Kieser, Scott and Carver Agriculture Extension Educator. They presented a program entitled “Small Farms Local Foods – As Grass Roots as it Gets”. They painted a picture of what the audience of small farms looked like. In 2007 there were 46,293 farms less than 180 acres in Minnesota - 2008 there were 44,092 and in 2010 there were 81,000. These farms have new farmers/ land owners interested in land management/stewardship and local/healthy food. Extension programming efforts with this group includes an 8 week workshop series entitled “Living on the Land”, a beef workshop series, Small Farm and Rural Living Expo, webinars and a reference website: [www.extension.umn.edu/smallfarms](http://www.extension.umn.edu/smallfarms)
- **Statewide memorandum of agreement between the University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Counties.**
  - Commissioner Reinhardt, chair of the MOA committee explained the process used in this committee discussion. She reminded the group that last year the University of Minnesota Extension submitted a zero percent increase in the contract which was a loss to Extension with their increase in fringe benefits. She then commented that Extension “had stepped to the plate again this year”. She stated, “I feel the University was being very fair and generous in this partnership and we cannot take this for granted. This is a good deal for this year but we cannot continue to think that the University will absorb these extra costs in the future. (3.1% increase in the U fringe)”
  - David Werner, Extension Chief Operations Officer, outlined the three part proposal.

- If the University gives no salary increase the MOA increase for 2011 will 0%.
  - If the University of gives a salary increase and also implements a furlough the MOA increase for 2011 will be 0% with agreement that all University furlough salary savings be retained by Extension. (The vote on the furlough will take place at the University tomorrow – March 25<sup>th</sup>.)
  - If the University gives a salary increase and no furloughs the MOA increase for 2011 will mirror the University increase, up to a maximum of 2%.
- After clarification and discussion about the three options Commissioner Reinhardt moved on behalf of the committee to accept the three part proposal from Extension. Commissioner Zylstra seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **Update on changes in 4-H management** was given by Nancy Hegland, University of Minnesota Extension Program Leader in 4-H Youth Development. Ms. Hegland thanked the counties for their continued support. She outlined 4-H administrative work over the past two years in consulting with 4-H youth development staff on how they could assist them in being more effective and efficient in their roles and work in a more specialized way to support local program coordinators.. The result of this discussion is alignment of roles in the Extension Center for Youth Development that has occurred over the last two months. The official change will occur on April 5. You should see minimal changes. There will be a few staff that has new supervisors but a high percentage of the 4-H staff received their first choice on positions and there will be no staff reductions. The changes will result in educators working in four areas; regional program support, volunteer and partnership development, educational design and delivery and program evaluation. If you have additional questions about these changes Nancy Hegland and colleagues are more than happy to discuss them.
- **AMC 4-H Community Leadership Awards and Extension Booth:** Toni Smith, Extension Liaison to AMC updated the group on the award winners. Freeborn County Deer Creek Project and the Pipestone County Bryan Manzey Benefit Project.
  - Toni called on Holli Arp and Nathan Crane Extension regional directors to outline to the committee what would be featured in the Extension booth at the legislative conference.
- **Election of officers.** Commissioner Ward turned the gavel over to Commissioner Schouweiler to run the election process. She called for nominations. Commissioner Reinhardt nominated Commissioner Ward; Commissioner Mattson seconded nomination. Commissioner Larson moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Ward. Motion passed.
  - Commissioner Bring nominated Commissioner Reinhardt for Vice Chairman. Commissioner Woehler seconded nomination. Commissioner Larson moved to

cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Reinhardt as Vice Chair. Motion carried.

- **Gavel was returned to the chair** and she asked for additional topics from the audience.
- **Reminder about the next two committee meetings.**
  - September 2- Joint meeting with Extension Citizens Advisory Committee and state fair programming trip.
  - December 6 – Meeting during the AMC Annual Conference in St. Cloud.
- **Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.**

Minutes submitted by Toni Smith, AMC Extension Liaison