AMC Extension Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 16, 2017
7:15-8:30 a.m.
InterContinental Hotel Great River Ballroom 4

Welcome and Introductions – Commissioner Teresa Walter

Update from University of Minnesota Extension – Senior Associate Dean, Brent Hales
- 4H programs make a difference in the lives of leaders across the state
- Review of UM Extension 2017 budget that supports work in Minnesota Counties (Fact sheet posted on AMC site)
- Dean Bev Durgan attended a USDA meeting about the future of Extension Programs

Update from Field Operations, University of Minnesota Extension – Director Bob Byrnes
- An MOA subcommittee will be created at the December 2017 Annual Conference Extension breakfast to develop future recommendations

Dedication to Dick Larson – Commissioner Bob Fox

Moment of Silence for Dick Larson – Commissioner Teresa Walter

Throughout Richard’s life, his dedication to his community, county and residents was never ending. We are grateful for his tireless service and leadership on the Extension Committee and numerous other committees at the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC). He was also volunteer fireman for 35 years in New London, Kandiyohi and Willmar, volunteer at Rice Hospital for 28 years, and served as Kandiyohi County Commissioner for 16 years.

Program: Partnering for School Success, University of Minnesota Extension Center for Family Development

Speakers: Silvia Alvarez de Davila, PhD, Extension Educator; Patricia Olson, PhD, Director of Programs; and, Kathleen A. Olson, M.S., Program Director, Partnering for School Success

Recipients of the 2017 recipient of the University of Minnesota Extension, Dean’s Diversity and Inclusion Award shared about this Extension program. It is implemented in partnership with Faribault Middle Schools and Triton Public Schools, serving Dodge Center, West Concord and Claremont. The culturally and linguistically relevant model built by this team helps to create system changes in schools, families and the Latino Community. The team is dedicated to creating environments that are resilient, healthy and secure for immigrant
families as they overcome obstacles and support their children in graduating from high school and seeking higher education.

Thanks extended to the Judging Committee for the Community Youth Leadership Awards - Sharon Bring from Marshall County, Bruce Messelt from Chisago County, and Ed Popp from Benton County.

Three 2017 winners were selected:

The Big Stone County 4-H AIS Team’s project, entitled: “Aquatic Robotics/Aquatic Invasive Species Education” is led by ten youth and three volunteers. They wanted to help others to learn more about the county’s local lakes and how to prevent aquatic invasive species. In 2016, they presented to approximately 527 youth and 65 adults across the county and distributed informational packets to over 100 fishermen. Then, they built an underwater robot with motors and a camera to help detect any changes in the lake’s ecosystem.

The Pope County’s Lakeview 4-H Club “Welcome to the Community Baskets” was started to welcome new families with children to the community. Their goal is to help children to feel excited to join a new school and make new friends. This nine-member club shopped for the gift baskets, put everything together, and hosted Open House events at the elementary and high schools. It was a fun way to encourage new friends while also providing leadership in the community.

The Dakota County’s Youth Teaching Youth Teachers and Peers for Peers Group wanted to make a difference through mentoring so they created the “Youth Teaching Youth Mentorship Program.” In this program, youth shaped the direction of activities, communicated with school staff to better understand their mentees, and provided support to mentees beyond program meetings. This year, they found that these efforts impacted entire classrooms as more students developed positive relationships – making a difference by helping others to stay engaged in school and also graduate.

The awards were presented on Thursday, February 16th during the Awards Luncheon with Minnesota County Commissioners.

The next committee meeting is scheduled to meet in late August or early September on the University of Minnesota campus in St. Paul, MN. It will be held during the Minnesota State Fair and will be a joint meeting with The University of Minnesota Citizen Advisory Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.