This meeting was conducted prior to the joint meeting of the AMC Extension Committee and the University of Minnesota Extension Dean’s Citizen Advisory Committee meeting.

Meeting called to order at 10:15 AM by AMC Extension Committee Chair, Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler. Following people present: Commissioners Frank Jewell, John Lerohl, Sharon Bring, Jon Evert, Bob Fox, Bruce Beatty, Dick Anderson, Corky Ebeling, Teresa Walter, Nancy Schouweiler and AMC Staff; Toni Smith

U. of MN Extension Staff: David Werner and Sue Galatowitsch

Commissioner Schouweiler asked everyone to introduce themselves and share a favorite Minnesota State Fair experience.

Motion to accept the February, 2014 meeting minutes made by Commissioner Fox and seconded by Commissioner Lerohl. Motion Carried.

Dr. Galatowitsch was the guest speaker at the meeting and she focused her comments on “Aquatic Species – How can the University of Minnesota Assist MN Counties”. She is the director of the MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) at the University and also a department head in fish and wildlife. She stated that most attempts to control AIS fail – in some cases, because available prevention and control approaches are not used effectively – in others, because science-based solutions do not exist. The MAISRC is a research center at the University funded to find science-based solutions to MN AIS problems. There are nine faculty at the center including 5 post docs, 5 grad students, 6 technicians, director, and associate director.

The current scope of research at the center focuses on zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, fish pathogens, Asian carp, and common carp. The center currently disseminates its findings to the public through information talks, campus tours, press releases, newsletters, and social media. Dr. Galatowitsch and colleagues recently conducted a one hour aquatic species webinar for AMC that is housed on the AMC website for review by any county staff person or county commissioner.

Following Dr. Galatowitsch’s presentation David Werner, U. of MN. Extension CFO outlined the Extension staffing structure across the state in all 15 regional centers. He reminded the committee that 2015 would be the third year of a three year contract and we will need to negotiate the next contract in early 2015 with the final decision at the AMC Extension committee meeting in March. The counties currently invest 8.1 million in MOA dollars and another $5,949,828 in county support dollars locally for a total of $14,083,304. This is 20% of
Extension’s entire budget. The AMC Extension Committee will select the negotiation committee at the December meeting held in St. Cloud and this committee will forward a recommendation to the full committee for a vote at their March meeting.

There was an opportunity for question/answer with the group followed by a motion to adjourn the meeting and join the other committee. Motion made by Commissioner Ebeling and seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.

The committee met in a joint luncheon followed by a planning program entitled; Extension in the 21st Century. Program: Extension Reconsidered. The University of Minnesota is one of 13 land-grant universities nationwide engaged in conversation about the public aspirations for cooperative extension in the 21st Century. Kathy Draeger, Statewide Director, U of M Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, lead the session with Virajita Singh, Research Fellow, College of Design.

Following the planning session, there was a youth development update, by Dorothy Freeman, Associate Dean, Extension Center for Youth Development and a wrap up and Q & A with Bev Durgan, Dean of Extension.

The meeting adjourned and the group boarded a bus and traveled to the Minnesota State Fair to view the 2014 Art’s in Presentation and have dinner in the 4-H building with 4-H ambassadors.

Minutes submitted by Toni Smith, AMC Education Director