Committee Members Present: Commissioners Patricia Beckel, John Lerohl, Sharon Bring, Stephanie Miranowski, Jon Evert, Ewald Petersen, Joe Wollak, Bob Fox, Harlan Madsen, Dan Kuhns, Dr. Bruce Beatty, Marv Zylstra, Rich Anderson, Corky Ebeling, Teresa Walter, Randy Maluchnik.

U. of MN Extension Staff: Bev Durgan, David Werner, Bob Byrnes, Kevin Klair, Sarah Chur

AMC Staff: Toni Smith

Commissioner Guests: Leo Trunt, Tom Warmka, Jenny Mongeau

Welcome and Introductions - Commissioner Marv Zylstra, AMC Committee Vice – Chair in the absence of the chair, Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler who was attending a NACo conference.

Commissioner Zylstra asked each person to introduce themselves, their county and also share one of their favorite holiday stories.

Approval of Minutes (Housed on AMC website at: http://www.mncounties.org/Affiliated_Organizations/extension/amc_extension_committee_minutes.htm)

Commissioner Evert moved approval of the August 2014 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Wollak. Motion passed

Update from Dr. Bev Durgan, Dean, University of Minnesota Extension.

- Dr. Durgan talked about the University of Minnesota going to the Citrus Bowl and there are packages listed on the website for fans.
- Dick Senese who did serve as the Senior Associate Dean has resigned and is now with Capella University. They have hired Dr. Brent Hales to serve in this role. Dr. Hales was the Associate Dean in Community and Leadership Development.
- There is a new Dean in CFANS, Dr. Brian Buhr. He was the Department Head in Applied Economics prior to this position. He has been a good supporter of Extension.
- They are looking for a new director for the Water Resources Center.
- Recently sponsored an Invasive Species workshop with 200 in attendance. They will be hiring a faculty member, educator to assist with programming.
- The University budget process is moving forward. They are freezing tuition one more year and asking for additional funds around the MNDRIVE effort.
- Commissioner Ewald asked Dean Durgan about water issues that they are very concerned about in Sherburne County. He stated that some want to get rid of irrigation systems and others need it for crops to survive. Dr. Durgan talked about the new irrigation specialist on staff at the University. This is a collaborative process with the Department of
Agriculture. Commissioner Wollak confirmed that they have similar concerns to Commissioner Peterson.

**Federal Farm Bill and Effects on Minnesota Farmers and Counties** – Kevin Klair, U. of MN Extension Economist and Program Leaders for the Center for Farm Financial Management spoke to the group about the

The "Agricultural Act of 2014," commonly called the farm bill, changes many programs and rules affecting farms and farmers. The fact sheets below explain different parts of the farm bill. As USDA writes the rules and regulations, we will be updating and adding fact sheets. Please come back for these updates.

UMN Extension has now launched online training in order to help landowners make decisions regarding Farm Bill programs. They are conducting seminars at 72 locations from early December through January and will be led by Extension educators and FSA staff; no registration is required. Details are available here (218 K PDF).

**Appointment of Members to University /County MOA Committee:**

The following commissioners were selected to serve on the MOA committee that will work with Extension administration to bring a proposal to the March 4, 2015. Commissioner Bob Fox, Richard Anderson and John Lerohl.

**Appointment of members to judge the AMC 4-H Youth Development Awards:**

Commissioners Sharon Bring, Randy Maluchnik, Dan Kuhn and Marv Zylstra

**Extension Booth Update:**

Extension Regional Director, Sarah Chur outlined the “Telling our Story” videos that conference participants would be viewing in the Extension booth at the conference. They have conducted video interviews with commissioners and county department heads across the state of Minnesota. In these interviews they share their perspective about Extension in Minnesota communities. We are going to try and get these videos posted on the Extension committee segment of the AMC website.

**Recognition of Outgoing Members:**

Three county commissioners will be leaving the group at the end of the year. Commissioner Zylstra recognized them with certificates and applause from the group. Commissioner Jon Evert, Commissioner Joe Wollak and Commissioner Autumn Lehrke.

**Adjourn:** Commissioner Kuhns moved adjournment, Commissioner Ebeling seconded the motion. Motion carried.