AMC Extension Committee Minutes
Wednesday, February 26, 2014
8:00 - 9:45 A.M.

Held during the AMC Legislative Conference at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel

Committee Members Present: Commissioners Jon Evert, Ewald Petersen, Kevin Adee, John Lerohl, Jan Fransen, Nancy Schouweiler, Bob Fox, Victoria Reinhardt, Marv Zylstra, Teresa Walter, Sharon Bring, Rick Anderson, Ray Gustafson, Autumn Lehrke

U. of MN Extension Staff: Bev Durgan, Sarah Greening, David Werner, Tammy McCulloch, Kathy Schwantes, Holli Arp, Aimee Viniard-Weideman, Krishona Martinson

AMC Staff: Julie Ring, Laurie Klupacs, Toni Smith

Commissioner Guests: Jim Stratton, Rosemary Schultz, Kim Hummel, Steve Flohrs, Richard Anderson, Leo Trunt, Jim Peterson,

8:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions - Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler, AMC Committee Chair
Commissioner Schouweiler asked each person to introduce themselves, their county and also share an issue they are dealing with in their county or region. Some of the responses from commissioners; Need for housing, frac sand mining, oil trains through the community (135 a day), combining soil and water offices, pipelines and paying back the state, new pipeline coming from Bakken oil fields to Superior, new poultry researchers, start of legislative session, propane storage (over $5.00 a gallon), collaborating to get back the nutrition educator in county, planning and zoning issues, MN Sunset conference on sexual trafficking in MN, drainage water issues, eminent domain to acquire land in county park.

Approval of Minutes (Housed on AMC website at: http://www.mncounties.org/Affiliated_Organizations/extension/amc_extension_committee_minutes.htm
Commissioner Fox moved approval of December 2013 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Adee. Motion passed.

8:15 a.m. Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair for 2014
Commissioner Schouweiler turned the meeting over to Toni Smith to lead the elections segment. Commissioner Evert nominated Commissioner Zylstra to serve as Vice Chair for 2014. Commissioner Fox seconded motion. Motion carried.
Commissioner Bring nominated Commissioner Schouweiler to serve as chair for 2014. Commissioner Fox seconded motion. Motion carried.

**Commissioner Schouweiler introduced the guest speaker:** Krishona Martinson who began working for the University of Minnesota Extension in Wright County as a County Educator in 2001. She completed her BS, MS and PhD in Agronomy, earning her graduate degrees from the University of Minnesota. In 2008, Krishona accepted the position of Equine Extension Specialist in the Department of Animal Science. She is chair of the Extension Horse Team and researches management strategies to improve horse forage utilization. There are more than 1 million apps available for Apple and Android products with billions of downloads annually. Recently, the University of Minnesota Horse Team developed the first for sale apps sold by the Regents of the University of Minnesota and later co-branded one of the apps with Cargill/Nutrena. Join Krishona Martinson as she discusses the process of developing a for sale app, co-branding the app, and how the app will help horse owners, professionals and research and Extension programs at the University of Minnesota.

**Sampling of points from Dr. Martinson’s presentation:**

- Seeing a 400% increase in unwanted horses
- 100,000 horses in Minnesota (1 to 2% unwanted)
- Drought, economy and food sources affecting the number of unwanted horses.
- An issue for county government because when these unwanted horses are turned into county sheriffs as a neglect problem the county has to deal with the issue.
- They are offering equine castration clinics, horse welfare clinics etc.
- Horse people contribute one billion a year to the economy.

9:10 a.m. **University of Minnesota Extension Management Update – Bev Durgan**

- Farm bill passed and the snap ed program was reauthorized. They also funded a beginning farmer and rancher program. The 2014 budget that was passed is the first budget passed in five years. It was always a continuing resolution.
- Smith Lever funds increased 9%. It was reduced 9% last year.
- The snap ed funding was reinstated but we do not know the amount that will be authorized to Minnesota. The federal funds are out and Extension money is continuing to fund the program. There is a plan for reallocation of snap ed funds nationally to make it more equitable around the US. There is a possibility of MN seeing a 10% cut in the next 2 or 3 years as the money is reallocated across the US.

Questions from Commissioners:
Question: Will you know by July 1 if there are any funds available to continue to fund county positions. Bev Durgan commented that they hoped to know in the next couple of weeks.

Question: Where are you at in filling positions. Bev Durgan said they budgeted for 45 and they have hired 20 to date.

**9:15 a.m.** 2014 AMC 4-H Community Leadership Award – *Aitkin County “Students using their time, talents and kindness to make their community better!”*

Toni Smith thanked the commissioners for reading the applications and encouraged the committee to have their photo taken with the youth when they arrive for the luncheon awards ceremony.

**9:20 a.m. Overview of Extension booth content at Legislative Conference – Regional Directors: Kathy Schwantes and Holli Arp.** Kathy and Holli outlined that they were focusing on E-Tools in the Extension booth and encouraged committee members to stop by to register and learn more about this topic.

**9:25 a.m. Commissioner Schouweiler asked for ideas for the next meeting.**

Commissioner Bring suggested food and nutrition program that outlines sugar in the diet. It was an eye opener to the commissioners in her county whey this program was done locally. The next meeting will be held in late August. This is a joint meeting with the University of Minnesota Extension Citizens Advisory Committee and it includes a trip to the MN State Fair to learn more about 4-H at the fair.

Commissioner Schouweiler asked for a motion of adjournment. Commissioner Adee moved adjournment, seconded by Commissioner Lehrke. Motion passed.