
U. of MN Extension Staff: David Werner, Bob Byrnes, Sarah Chur, Tammy McCulloch, Joyce Hoelting, Kent Olson, Brigid Tuck,

AMC Staff: Toni Smith, Laurie Klupacs

Commissioner Guests: Matt Ludwig, Jenny Mongeau, Allen Paulson, James Brady, Frank Gross, Richard Anderson

I. Welcome/ Introductions/ Meeting Minutes - Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler, AMC Committee Chair called the meeting to order and asked for introductions of those present.

Approval of Minutes - All minutes housed on AMC website at:
http://www.mncounties.org/Affiliated_Organizations/extension/amc_extension_committee_minutes.htm

Commissioners Lerohl moved acceptance of December 2014 meeting minutes; Commissioner Ebeling seconded motion. Motion carried.

II. MOA Sub-Committee Report and Recommendations: Commissioner Schouweiler thanked Commissioners Fox, Anderson and Lerohl for their work on the committee. They worked very closely with David Werner, U. of MN Extension Chief Financial Officer. Commissioner Rich Anderson from Lyon County asked David Werner to give an overview of the data the committee reviewed. Mr. Werner explained that at the December 2014 AMC Extension Committee meeting the sub-committee was formed to discuss a recommendation that would be brought before the committee at the March 2015 meeting. This subcommittee, consisting of different commissioners over the year, has served in this negotiation role since 2005.

Mr. Werner distributed an outline about inflation factor data that featured; University of Minnesota Compensation Changes, AFSCME agreements, Consumer Price Index (CPI), Agreed upon MOA increases for calendar years from 2005 to 2015, Price of a program coordinator, price of Extension Educator, FTE of and County Based MOA positions.

He also distributed a handout that reviewed data collected from 34 counties and the average cost of living increase provided in those counties in 2015 which was 2.0%. The range retrieved in this process went from 0 to 4% but this number does not include longevity or step adjustments or any benefit cost increases.

The data also outlined how the MOA funds were utilized: Looking at FY 13/14 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014) since this is our most recent complete year and looking at 1730 (County Funds) Extension spent the MOA money in the following way: Salary – 70%; Fringe- 22.5%. The
remainder of the funds, 7.5% as “dollars per FTE” that amounts to $5,065 out of the $67,530 paid is spent on mileage, meals, lodging and other expenses of the P.C. If after paying expenses the remaining funds (if any) cover Staff and Professional Development, Supervision, Finance and planning & HR support and covers other State wide expenses that benefit the County program.

Commissioner Anderson then outlined the proposal for the next three years.

*The MOA reflects a 6.75% increase over the next three years.*

- 2.0% in 2016
- 2.25% in 2017
- 2.5% in 2018

*The above increases would be utilized for all counties (currently 92%) that sign a three year MOA. For Counties that proceed with one year agreements, the committee supports Extension implementing a 2.5% per year increase for each of the three years.”*

Commissioner Schouweiler asked if there were any questions or comments from the group.


III. **Corn Research Summary Collaborative:** Commissioner Bob Fox brought copies for all committee members of the recent multi-page research report from the University of Minnesota and MN Corn Growers Association.

IV. **Update from Extension: David Werner, U. of MN Extension Chief Financial Officer**

Mr. Werner explained that the Dean, Bev Durgan was sorry that she could not attend the meeting due to a funeral and obligations in Washington DC. Mr. Werner welcomed Dr. Kent Olson to his new interim Associate Dean role within Extension. He also discussed the fact that Extension would be testifying at 10:00 AM that morning for the Farmer Lender Mediation program. There is a recommendation to change the ag debt delinquent amount from $5000 to $75,000. If this passes it could decrease the amount of mediations that come into the program by 72%. Mediations are increasing in Minnesota. More than double what they were last year at this time.

U. of MN Extension is in the midst the University budgeting process called Compact. He also talked about the 120 farm bill meetings that were held across the state over the last few months. Thousands of Minnesotans attended these meetings.

Extension has hired a regional educator in AIS and a faculty position. Mr. Werner encouraged the commissioners to talk with their regional director about possibilities for future collaboration.

David Werner then announced his future retirement from U. of MN Extension. His work with the committee will be transitioned to Bob Byrnes, Director of Field Operations for Extension.
V. PROGRAM: “How is the Economy in Your Region?” Brigid Tuck, University of Minnesota Extension Economic Impact Analyst

The picture of Greater Minnesota’s economies is complex and diverse. Brigid Tuck and her team studied economic outputs, employment and interdependencies in 12 Greater Minnesota regions in 2014-15. She presented an overview of findings, with special attention to how Greater Minnesota weathered the Great Recession.

Ms. Tuck has more than 15 years of experience using IMPLAN, the input-output modeling software used in economic impact analysis. For Extension, Brigid conducts analysis and writes reports for the Economic Impact Analysis program, which has conducted about 50 economic impact analysis studies since 2010. She encouraged the committee members to look at the data from their own region. Go to:

http://www.extension.umn.edu/community/economic-impact-analysis/reports/#econ-comp

V. AMC Youth Leadership Awards – Commissioner Schouweiler thanked the following Commissioners who served as judges for 2015. Commissioners Marv Zylstra, Sharon Bring, Randy Maluchnik, and Dan Kuhns. They selected: Houston County – Mayville Blue Ribbon Strivers 4-H Club – “Food Shelf Garden Project” - and Swift County – Swift Falls Winners 4-H Club – “Swift Falls Park Playground Renovation Project”

VII. Extension Booth Update - Sarah Chur, Extension Regional Director encouraged the commissioners to stop at the Extension booth at the conference. They would be featuring community development work that Extension does throughout the state and the upcoming leadership cohort program that commissioners may wish to apply to participate in over the next year.

VIII. Committee Elections – Every year this committee elects a chair and co-chair. If people are interested in running for this position they are asked to share their intent with Toni Smith prior to the meeting and intent will be shared at the meeting if people wish to nominate members. Three commissioners showed interest in 2015. Commissioner Schouweiler, Commissioner Jewell and Commissioner Ebeling.
Commissioner Schouweiler turned the meeting over to Toni Smith to run the election segment for chair. Motion was made and seconded to nominate Commissioner Schouweiler for AMC Extension Committee Chair passed unanimously. Meeting turned back to Commissioner Schouweiler.
Motion made and seconded to nominate Commissioner Jewel for vice chair. Motion made and seconded to nominate Commissioner Ebeling as vice chair. After discussion between the two commissioners, Commissioner Ebeling pulled his nomination and said he would be willing to run next year. The group then voted on Commissioner Jewell who was unanimously elected as vice chair.

IX. Adjourn - August Meeting TBD and Annual Conference Meeting Scheduled for Monday, Dec.7