AMC Extension Committee Meeting MINUTES
This meeting was conducted from 11:15 AM to 12:30 on Tuesday, December 8, 2015

AMC Staff: Toni Smith
University of MN Extension Staff, Bev Durgan, Brent Hales, Bob Byrnes, Aimee Viniard - Weideman

Welcome and Introductions – Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler. AMC Extension Committee Chair Commissioner Schouweiler extended a welcome to new District 5 committee member, Commissioner Randy Winscher, and thank you to Commissioner Peterson for his past service to the committee. She also welcomed Bruce Messelt, Chisago County Administrator to the committee as ex officio appointment with MACA. She then asked those present to share one Extension program they have heard about in their county over the last few months and how they heard about the program. This could be a county, regional or state program.
Commissioner Schouweiler asked for a motion to accept the committee minutes from the March 4, 2015 meeting held during the AMC Legislative Conference. Commissioner Anderson moved/ Commissioner Fox seconded motion/ motion passed.

The new committee vice chair, Commissioner Jewell from St. Louis County was unable to attend the meeting because of travel outside the country.

This committee met on September 2 jointly with the U. of MN Extension Citizens Advisory Committee. This was a joint meeting with a trip to the MN State Fair to observe 4-H projects and meet with the state ambassadors.

Update from University of Minnesota Extension Dean – Bev Durgan
Update on the MOA’s across the state – 62 have been signed and the remaining 24 should be in this month. There have been 10 changes with five increasing funds and three decreasing funds. There are 119 ½ positions funded across the 87 counties.
There is a new regional center in St. Cloud MN and the Dean welcomed people to stop in if they are in the vicinity. She also thanked Ramsey County for housing 22 nutrition staff in the Ramsey County educational barn facility. She distributed the new SOURCE magazine to commissioners and discussed the SOAR youth program (Science of Ag Program). Last year there were 12 teams and it is growing. The Corn Growers are funding almost the entire program in the future.

Program: “Energy and Extension”
Commissioner Schouweiler introduced the presenter, Peter Lindstrom, Clean Energy Resource Teams Local Government Outreach Coordinator, University of Minnesota Extension Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships.
Committee members learned more about Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE,) a new way to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades. Energy-saving measures pursued by building owners receive project financing and are repaid as a separate item on their property tax assessment for a set period. PACE eliminates the
burden of upfront costs by providing low-cost, long-term financing.

**Appointment of judges for the 4-H Youth Awards Process:** Three people volunteered to review the applications for the AMC 4-H Youth Development awards process. This included: Teresa Walter from Winona County, Commissioner Marv Zylstra from Nobles County and Commissioner Sharon Bring from Marshall County. Bruce Messelt from Chisago County also volunteered to review the applications.

*Next committee meeting scheduled during the AMC Legislative Conference, March 10-11, 2016 in St. Paul, MN.*

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.