

Minutes – CEC Meeting @ Cotton Town Hall/Community Center (and via Zoom) – June 15, 2023

Present: Jim Takala, Mark Baumann, Paul Fish, Annie Harala, Doug Hoffbauer, Gary Rantala, Mary Shaw (virtual)
Others: Mary Tennis, Bob Byrnes (virtual), Nathan Winter, Troy Salzer, Bob Olen, Chase Durovec, Tyler Erickson, Taryn Burnett, Angela Zavodnik, Jan Derdowski, Heather Snesrud (virtual), Sarah Westerberg (virtual), Cacia Wauters, Nicole Baxton

Chair Jim Takala called the meeting to order at 9:06 am. Roll call was taken and pledge of allegiance at 9:07 am. Agenda was approved. Minutes from April 20, 2023 were approved as printed.

Feature Program

Youth in Action: Tyler Erickson, Taryn Burnett, Angela Zavodnik: An overview of 2023 Programming was presented, including the following:

Make a Difference Conference: first in-person conference since 2020

Next conference: November 9th at the DECC.

Scholarships: This year two were offered, one from the north and one from the south.

Mission: To create a more united community through passionate people and human connection.

County Commissioner Update: Annie Harala

Commissioner provided an update from the 2023 Legislative session.

Extension Director Update: Mary Tennis

Yielding time.

Regional Director Update: Bob Byrnes

Serving as interim for Keri Cavitt. The role of the Regional Director is to support the CEC members and to be the connection between the county and University of Minnesota.

Five-minute break.

Word Around the County

General discussion on Extension inquiries and possible NERCC meat processing.

Business Items

Director Tennis recommended adding a .75 position to AFNR for the 2024 MOA.

Vice Chair Hoffbauer makes a motion to bring this to the county board.

Committee Member Fish – seconded.

Chair Takala – called to vote. In favor: All. Opposed: none. Motion passed.

Director Tennis recommended removing rental fees charged to SNAPed in order to retain SNAPed programming in St. Louis County.

Commissioner Harala – made a e motion to remove the line item to align with the standard practices with the state.

Committee Member Fish– Seconded.

Chair Takala – Called to vote.

In favor: All. Opposed: none. Motion passed.

Director Tennis: – Proposal to grow the 4-H Educator temp casual worker positions to \$9,410 for 2023 in order to keep up with inflation and continued oversight measures in the process of childcare (more adults per student).

Commissioner Harala – made a motion to grow the budget for the purpose of adding more temp casual positions in 2023.

Committee Member Fish – seconded.

Chair Takala – Called to vote.

In favor: All. Opposed: none. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn. 11:05 am.

Next meeting: September 21st, 9 – 11 am, The Depot

Respectfully submitted by,

Nicole Baxton