

## **Minutes – CEC Meeting – Camp Esquagama – Gilbert, MN**

**June 19, 2019**

Present: Jim Takala, Gary Rantala, Doug Hoffbauer, Nancy Nilsen, Frank Jewell, Seija Packila

Others: Patty Swedberg, Mardi Harder, Sarah Westerberg, Taryn Burnett, Angela Zavodnik, Tyler Erickson and Elise Rigney

Chair Jim Takala called the meeting to order at 12:53 pm. Minutes from the May 15 meeting were approved for printing. Introductions were made.

### **Feature Program Presentation – Youth in Action**

Patty introduced the Youth in Action program, gave an overview of the handouts, and a summary of the 2019 MAD conference. Duluth's conference attendance increased 33% from last year. This isn't the first year that evaluation comments indicated YIA has outgrown Fortune Bay so they are looking to move the 2020 conference to the DECC. Jim suggested looking at having one conference in the north and one in the south as the program grows. We will continue to discuss all options moving forward. Taryn stated Kid's Voting-Virginia held last November--943 out of 1,648 students in Virginia area precincts voted--a fantastic turnout considering a gubernatorial election, not a presidential election. Frank asked how YIA got involved with KV. Taryn said it's been a YIA project for yrs. Frank mentioned it used to be big in the Duluth area but has almost completely gone away. Taryn stated YIA was approached to introduce it to Duluth area two yrs. ago and that it's a potential opportunity for the program. Angela spoke about cookie decorating with Marquette Elem. and crafts projects with Assumption school students. Taryn shared projects such as food and clothing drives—of which the most successful drive for YIA was the Bare Necessities Drive which collected over 2,100 items. Cardboard Box City took place in March at Mesabi East H.S. Angela shared NE Range and Cherry students collected items and put together baskets for patients who are undergoing chemotherapy and cancer treatment. Elise stated Cardboard Box City was a great example of how an activity can bring north/south YIA students together.

Tyler stated Proctor was very active in YIA and has been for the entire last yr. Duluth East and Marshall started around the conference (February) and Hermantown and Duluth Denfeld came on board around this time last yr. The south absorbed South Ridge and started 2018-2019 school yr. Harbor City in downtown Duluth has decided to get involved w/YIA. Elise discussed new partnerships with Duluth Parks & Rec, Lake Superior Zoo, and Salvation Army. She explained their goal is to work with many diverse organizations in the hopes a student finds a niche that really interests them. Tyler shared weekly schedules and explained they are trying to create consistency for members. Frank asked how many students showed up for the hike earlier that morning--Tyler answered 3. Elise added there were 3 last week as well. Frank asked how many students are involved with grocery shopping for seniors. Elise stated 4 signed up out of 6 spots available this week. Taryn added many organizations will not take large groups--5-10 students at a time is pretty typical. Elise agreed and explained that's why they plan hikes and park clean-ups because these events are not limited by number and anybody can show up and be involved

The committee was invited to offer other ideas for possible conference locations. Taryn mentioned a central location is important. Tyler added with Fortune Bay there are size limitations, with the DECC there are travel limitations. Patty added the team toured a few venues in north SLC. The Eveleth Curling Club is possibly an option, but would need to contract w/a company to divide space w/pipe and drape...actually develop the entire space, separate workshops rooms etc. Patty discussed value of having students all be able to come together.

Taryn discussed plans for 2019 summer service learning retreat (July). Planned events include making dinner for families at Ronald McDonald house, volunteering at Minneapolis Parks & Rec and also at the Arboretum.

Students will have free time for some shopping and attend a dinner performance at Chanhassen Dinner Theatre.

Doug asked if the Incredible Exchange was still around and if there was competition between the programs. Patty said Incredible Exchange is still around and certainly not any competition. Both programs offer unique opportunities (seasonal and all-yr. round) for different age levels. Patty/Elise added there are more than enough opportunities for everybody to volunteer and help is always needed and welcomed. Frank asked if the 20 students going on the summer retreat is spread out to different schools--Elise responded yes. There was a selection process that included students filling out a questionnaire about why they wished to attend, and also a waiting list in case of cancellations. Gary mentioned his granddaughter was involved w/Kids Voting and voter turnout is very important. Mardi asked if auditor's office provides voting education to which Nancy said she wasn't aware. Taryn stated they provide precinct information but education taught to students is very basic. Taryn mentioned the possibility of introducing KV to another district for the next election. Tyler said the advisor at East is interested in the project for 2020 election but will need to see more participation before they consider taking that on. Frank discussed a film festival called Catalyst coming to Duluth in October and said he thinks if YIA wants to try to get involved and get their name on the production guide there might be students who would have a real interest in something like that. Tyler is very excited for the festival. Frank added SLC invested \$150,000 into production.

### **SLC Budget Report**

Patty reported the deadline to submit proposed 2020 budgets is Friday (6/21). Per the committee request, an Ag/Hort. intern (3 months + \$7,050) has been added to 2020 budget; also \$10,000 for Videotape/Podcast educational sessions. She added the increase in Personnel is due to new MOA Ag/Hort. position increasing from part-time to full-time. Mardi added a 3-yr. MOA is in place and each yr. the university wants to affirm with the county they are still on track for those positions and also talk about the possibility of an Ag intern. Doug asked if the intern that Troy currently has is a county employee or a university employee--Mardi responded University. Doug asked if that was on the list, to which Mardi responded no as it's not an MOA position. Through efforts and conversations Nathan is funding the position through University Extension and not charging Carlton or SLC. Mercedes is housed at the regional office in Cloquet. Doug asked if she was the same intern as last yr. Mardi replied no, but there has been an intern in Carlton County for yrs. Doug asked if there would be an option for Bob to have an intern to assist with emails, calls, and some office work--he asked if that was something they could discuss or something for another conversation for another day. Mardi stated she would like to hear from the committee as to their thoughts. Nancy asked how they would look to fund it, to which Mardi replied a request to the county for 2020. Nancy asked how much of an increase there was in the Ag/Hort. position to which Patty replied about \$65,000 but added it would be less this yr. being the extension educator started approx. May 1<sup>st</sup>. Nancy reiterated a \$65,000 increase plus a \$7,000 increase for an intern? Jim corrected \$7,000-\$14,000 if they looked at an intern for Bob as well. Doug added an educator answering phones and taking soil samples at \$50 per hour isn't the best use of funds when an intern could be doing the same at \$15 per/hr. Jim added he suggested Gary helping with Hort. calls in the spring. Nancy would like to see an analysis showing how much of Bob's time is spent on phone calls before considering investing in another position. Doug asked what percent of his time is spent one-on-one, with home owner questions to which Patty said approx. 50% for both Bob and Troy esp. during peak season (April-Sept.). Nancy asked if he is asking for clerical help--Patty replied no clerical help—only assistance to the high volume of horticulture inquiries. For many yrs. County Extension hired a seasonal intern or educator to assist through the summer months--but it's been quite some time since we last hired someone. Frank said from a county board perspective, SLC has the highest expenditures of any county in the state because of YIA and 4-H. Increasing the budget by \$7,000 may be possible but things will be tight. Jim brought up the value in investing in youth development and Frank agreed in the value, but added SLC got word last week they will be losing \$350,000 worth of income we are used to receiving so we have to figure out how to make up for that.

Jim asked what the total county budget is to which Frank replied approx. \$400,000,000. Nancy said she has budget numbers coming in and is worried about where we can cut. Mardi said we can explore the possibility of an Ag/Hort. combination intern position. Nancy stated they are probably going to want to know where we can make cuts to pay for the new position and asked if Jim G. had an intern budget—Patty replied not to her knowledge. Frank added funding from IRRRB or a grant might be a good route to look into for education podcasts. Patty asked if the university hires interns less than full-time. To reiterate Mardi said what I'm hearing is follow up regarding a combined Ag/Hort. intern, possibly less hours than full time, are there unpaid intern positions, as well as exploring designated county funds set aside for interns. Doug added looking into grants for interns and projects. Frank said it's more likely to get a grant for a project than it is for an intern. Nancy said also look into areas where you can make reductions. Patty stated finding areas to reduce may be difficult as we have held-the-line on increasing budget objects for quite some time due to additional positions, and the budget inc. some operational expenses the county needed to impose for all depts. Nancy asked when the budget meeting is--Patty responded first week in July. Patty asked if the committee would like to remove the \$10,000 from the budget proposal and consider a grant. The response was yes. Nancy added your proposal will be looked at line-by-line and anywhere there is an increase of more than 2-3% you will have to provide an explanation. Patty stated budget increases will be discussed with County Administration. Nancy clarified to Mardi the recommendation is to reduce or find another method to fund the intern position. Mardi introduced the 2017 County Profile Census of Agriculture prepared by Mercedes.

### **Farm Family of the Year for SLC**

Mardi discussed how Troy offered to be at the fair to present the farm family of the year certificate and a flag to the Brodeen's on Saturday, August 3rd at 3:00 pm on the stage. The Brodeen's will also be going to Farm Fest near Redwood Falls on August 8<sup>th</sup> to be honored at the statewide event.

### **CEC Holiday Project**

Frank was taken back by the number of people in need but he struggled to find a place where he felt needed. Gary didn't feel an appreciation for what we were doing. Frank mentioned working with SNAP. Doug said it has been brought up in the past and they can't be where food is being distributed. Frank is in favor of figuring out where we can make more of an impact. Mardi is willing to talk with Snap Ed. Mardi suggested a partnership between Bob, Snap Ed, Salvation Army and Farmer's Market. Doug asked if it's fixable. Gary thinks it's fixable but he doesn't quite know the right way to make it work. Nancy and Frank agreed it's the wrong vehicle.

Meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm.

Next Meeting will be held at the Cotton Town Hall in Cotton, MN on September 18th. The feature presentation will be Snap Ed.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Sarah Westerberg