

## **Minutes – CEC Meeting – Cotton Town Hall – Cotton, MN**

**April 17, 2019**

Present: Jim Takala, Roger Sabin, Gary Rantala, Frank Jewell, Nancy Nilsen, Keith Nelson,  
Others: Patty Swedberg, Mardi Harder, Sarah Westerberg, Lori Rothstein, Mary Jo Katras, Diane Ruonavaara,  
Briana Michels, Jana Blomberg

Chair Jim Takala called the meeting to order at 9:06 am. Minutes from the March 20 meeting were approved for printing. Introductions were made.

- Keith discussed being in Kittson County last week and stated SLC will be asked to allow introduction of an Elk herd into Cloquet Valley Forest...DNR isn't managing the current herds. Herd totals in 2015 was 34 animals; herd totals in 2019 was 94 animals--we can expect numbers around 130 by around June. The DNR was ordered by the legislature to not increase herd size unless there was proof that there were no consequences contrary to what the farming/surrounding community wanted. They promised to keep the Lancaster herd to 40 animals or less unless there were no crop depredation numbers. Last year they spent \$147,000.00 in claims for crop and fence damage after they told farmers they had to turn it into their crop insurance...farmers are refusing to do that. These are not paid by DNR, they are paid by Dept. of Agriculture which is taking away precious resource. According to the map of Elk harvest locations 2008-2017, current herds are not staying within WMA's (Wildlife Management Areas). The Elk were harvested 6 to 20 miles outside of the WMA's. Keith thinks the risk is too high to bring those animals into this environment given where we sit with chronic wasting and are currently a TB free state for beef. Keith will likely be back in the fall asking for a resolution by the Extension Committee in opposition of this for SLC. Keith also mentioned he cannot find any record of Elk ever being in the Cloquet Valley and adds they are a plains animal, not a woodland animal. Jim added that they range out of their areas by about 30 miles and are a huge liability issue with highways.

### **Feature Program Presentation – Extension's Opioid Prevention Work**

- Mary Jo (Program Leader, Family Resiliency - U of M Extension) stated they received funding in 4 counties: St. Louis-Pine-Itasca-Atkin. They received two 2-year federal grants and will be working with the community to address the Opioid issue.
- Jana (SLC PHHS Substance Abuse Prevention & Intervention Initiative Team) introduced her group SAPII (Substance Abuse Prevention & Intervention Initiative) which consists of two Public Health Educators, three Social Workers (one of which is embedded in CPS which is beneficial allowing them to expedite Rule 25s and the reunification process between children and parents) and an AmeriCorps VISTA member
- Jana shared data from around the region: Opioid Overdose Information provided by The Lake Superior Drug and Violent Crime Task Force reports 54 reported overdoses between January and March 2019 (7 fatal and 12 successfully referred on for treatment)
- 2017 data shows deaths continue to rise from Opioids, alcohol and suicides in MN
- Since 2000, deaths from all three have steadily increased in the state
- Methamphetamines remain the biggest problem in the northern part of MN, while Opioids are more rampant in the Duluth area
- Northern St. Louis County just wrote a grant for suicide prevention and will find out in May or June if they will receive it
- "Vaping", or the use of the "e-cig", has reversed a 17-year downward trend in youth tobacco use
- There are five Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions in Northern St. Louis County: OARS serves the Quad Cities, East Range Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition serves Aurora and Hoyt Lakes Region, E-PARC serves the Ely community, Hibbing Chemical Health Advisory Committee serves the Hibbing

Community, and Chisholm Youth, Family & Community Partnership/Chisholm Kids Plus serves the Chisholm Community

- Naloxone Trainings are happening around the region and beyond – Naloxone is used to treat narcotic overdose in an emergency situation - At the most recent training at Mesabi College there were 100 kits available, and 99 went.
- Mary Jo discussed the two grants they have received: the USDA-NIFA Rural Health and Safety Education Grant and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Grant (SAMHSA ROTA) Grant
- Lori (Extension Educator, Leadership & Civic Engagement U of M Extension) explained the “Changemaker Retreat” – a three day event for Northern St. Louis & Pine Counties and Mille Lacs & Bois Forte Bands of Ojibwe in the Fall of 2019 where selected individuals come with a passion, are provided the space and support to be creative, and leave with a project they can initiate locally – there is an application process & registration. There are 25 spaces, 20 are still available. The cost is free. For more information, visit [z.umn.edu/opioid-changemaker](http://z.umn.edu/opioid-changemaker).
- Briana (Tribal Community Facilitator U of M Extension) talked about the programs she is involved with: Many Broken Hearts – a workshop about dealing with historical trauma, Healing Through History, ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences), Susan does a Mind, Body, Medicine training, and Sober Squad – a volunteer squad that supports people through, but most importantly after treatment

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

- Mardi spoke with Karen Brodeen--she will submit her form on Monday. The next step will be honoring them at the fair--we can discuss the recognition next month. They plan on going to Farm Fest.

#### **Updates and Discussions**

- Troy's first day will be Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> – Patty will be in Virginia to meet with him, along with staff introductions. Jim asked if Troy will be dropping the ash program in Carlton Co.--Mardi said because he is working in SLC he will not be working in Carlton Co. Jim asked how that is going over in Carlton--Mardi said they are having discussions about filling the position. Jim asked about changing Troy's phone number to reduce the traffic of phone calls. Mardi stated Troy requested he keep his phone number. Nancy stated the concern is with Troy keeping the phone number—will this pull him away from his work with SLC. Jim said he will transition over time and will be on the road frequently and stated he has a wide following in the region coming in to this. Mardi reiterated that he is assigned to SLC. Jim suggested hiring part-time staff like Gary R. to take phone calls in the spring and having a technician take soil samples to help free up Troy's time.

#### **SLC Budget Report**

- Patty asked if there were any questions related to the report. A column for the Yr. 2020 budget request will be added to the report next month and budget discussion will be on May and June agendas. Patty stated a goal for this yr's budget was to make every attempt to not increase operations due to the new positions. There are a few operational expenses that may need an increase for Yr. 2020. Patty stated if anyone has questions regarding the budget, to contact her.

#### **CEC Holiday Project**

- There were some changes this year in Virginia and Duluth. In Duluth the project was reduced from 2.5 days to 1.5 days. Maybe we have made our impact and should look at other options. There are probably lots of opportunities with different venues or organizations. Mardi suggested talking with SNAP Ed to see if there are needy areas where it might be more beneficial.

#### **Other**

- Patty stated Spring Gardening Extravaganza was last Saturday--130 participants. It was very successful and quite a few participants registered that morning. Dr. Mark Seeley was a keynote presenter, along with Bob and Tom Kasper. Master Gardeners presented at the individual workshops. Jim T. asked if

the event was taped. Patty responded she is working with Dana in Communications to collect information as to taping and pod-cast options, along with associated expenses.

Next Meeting – May 15. The feature presentation will be Agriculture and Horticulture programs as we plan for both Bob and Troy to be in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Sarah Westerberg