UCR Advisory Council  
Wednesday, February 2, 2011  
7:30 – 8:30 a.m. ~ HB117

Present:  Aaron Benike, Sam Ellis, Guy Finne, LuAnn Hiniker, Tom Horvei, Craig Johnson, Julie Nigon,  
Warren Oslin, Diane Schwinghammer, Estelle Souchet Graves, Ron Smith, Don Supalla  

Absent:  Armin Budimlic, John Devlin, David Thompson  

Recorder:  Judy Kingsbury  

Guests:  Margo Herman, Youth Work Institute; Andrea Loreak Strauss, Environmental Science Education;  
Lisa Behnken and Fritz Breitenbach, Agriculture

Call to Order  
Schwinghammer reported that Budimlic would be unable to attend today’s meeting because of another  
commitment. Schwinghammer called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes for January  
The minutes of the January 2011 meeting were approved as written.

University of Minnesota Extension Update  
Youth Development:  Herman reported the Youth Development program conducts and shares out-of-school time  
research and evaluations, and employs five staff locally and 35 staff state-wide. The program partners with many  
local entities, including K-12 schools and United Way; and focuses on three national mandates (Healthy Living,  
Citizenship, and STEM). Herman also shared information on Professional Development opportunities that  
include Quality Matters, Leadership Matters and Youth Matters; adding workshops can be as short as 10 minutes  
or as long at 50 minutes.

Minnesota Master Naturalist:  Strauss shared information on the Master Naturalist program, which partners  
closely with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and exists to promote awareness, understanding,  
and stewardship of Minnesota’s natural environment by developing a corps of well-informed citizens. The  
program focuses on three areas: Big Woods, Big Rivers; Prairies and Potholes; and Northwoods, Great Lakes.  
Another component is service, where peer groups do service learning projects together. Strauss stated in the past  
five years, the program has conducted 44 classes, 81,000 hours of service work, at a value of over $1.7 million.  
In addition, some of the capstone service projects locally conducted in Rochester include emerald ash borer  
monitoring, collecting prairie seeds to be planted elsewhere, and planting 300 trees at state parks. Oslin  
questioned if the wolves were protected. Strauss responded that the gray wolf is protected by federal laws, but  
individual states have separate rules and the state of Minnesota has classified wolves as threatened, not  
endangered. Strauss encouraged everyone to visit www.wolf.org for more information.

Crop Research and Food Production:  Behnken and Breitenbach reported the program works with farmers and  
other agricultural professionals, usually conducting 60-70 field trials annually at sites around southeast Minnesota  
(Waseca, Rock Dell, Houston, etc.) Behnken added the program hires over 30 full- and part-time students to  
work alongside employees in the fields (collecting data and evaluating plots). Behnken also shared information  
on a partnership between the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic relating to soybean aphid research. The  
goal is to develop an insecticide that is safe for humans but will kill the soybean aphids. “To do weed research,”  
according to Breitenbach, “you need weeds, and that’s why you see weeds on East Circle Drive. We actively  
raise weeds so we have uniformity of weeds.” Ellis questioned what started the partnership. Breitenbach  
responded it was a health aspect that began the conversations; a way to introduce pesticides that only affect the  
pests.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 a.m.

Next meeting:  Wednesday, March 2, 2011 – 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. – CF206  
Farm to School Program – Stephanie Heim (Farm to School Coordinator)  
and Jo Anne Judge-Dietz (Public Health Nurse)