Chairman, Dave Kelsey called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. He asked Dr. Ken Kephart to introduce his staff, as follows: Tammy Balzer, Administrative Associate, Dr. Geraldine (Gigi) Opena, Research Associate, Tom Fischer, Farm Foreman, and Dr. Qasim Khan, Post-Doctorial Fellow. Mr. Kelsey then introduced Dr. Jeff Jacobsen, Dean and Director, Montana Agricultural Experiment Stations, MSU College of Agriculture, and Dr. Mal Westcott, Head, Department of Research Centers.

Chairman Kelsey introduced special guests: Jack Ross, House District Representative #60, Monica Lindeen, House District Representative #43, Lane Larson, Senate District #22, and Robert Story, Senate District #30.

Members of the advisory committee introduced themselves; Rodney Jabs, Greg Lackman, Mike Bernhardt, Kim Nile, Terral Balzer, Ervin Schlemmer, Mike Greytak, Mark Helland, Dennis Newton, and Dave Kelsey. The following members who notified us of their inability to be at the meeting were; Bill Griffin and Tony Zinne. County Extension Agents in attendance were; Kent Williams, Paul Dixon, Lee Schmelzer, and Janna Kincheloe.

Chairman Kelsey thanked everyone for their attendance and made special thanks to the county agents and the house district and senate district representatives.

Old Business

Chairman Kelsey asked if everyone had read the November 25, 2003 meeting minutes. Kim Nile made a motion to accept the 2003 minutes as written. Mike Greytak seconded. Motion carried.

Dr. Jeff Jacobsen made a short presentation regarding the progress of the authorization from the 2001 Legislature who authorized a Million Dollar Match. The Million Dollar Match Campaign currently has donations in the amount of $820,000.00, and $180,000.00 is needed to fulfill the donation obligation. He again thanked Monica Lindeen, who was a key legislator who helped with the 2001 legislation. A question was asked by an advisory member if any amount is welcome as a contribution, and Dr. Jacobsen responded by saying that any amount over $100.00 would be a welcome contribution.

Dr. Jacobsen also commented on the College of Agriculture Animal Science Building project, which is a four-year project that will strengthen and enhance the livestock industry in Montana.

Dr. Jacobsen discussed MAES Strategic Initiatives that will be discussed during the 2005 Legislative session (FY06-07 Biennium). MAES testimony will probably be held in early February. Go to the MSU website for further in-depth information. Dave Kelsey commended Dr. Jacobsen on his approach regarding initiatives.

Dr. Westcott discussed the MAES organizational structure and budget structure.

Terral Balzer reported on the State Advisory Committee Meetings (MAES) that were held in July and October 2004. Terral mentioned that the minutes from both meetings are available for review if anyone would want to look them over. Dave Kelsey thanked Terral for his continued involvement and work with the State Advisory Committee.

Dr. Kephart began his superintendent's report with the following items discussed:
FY2005 MAES allocation, faculty and staff changes were discussed. Dr. James Mickelson, Weed Scientist, resigned in January 2004 and replacement, Dr. Steven King, has verbally accepted the position, with a start date in January 2005. He also gave an update of building and physical plant issues. He reported that one farm house is vacant and retiree, Gordon Mohr is still renting the other farmhouse and that the Land Leases have been extended to Jim Hein. He also discussed that SARC has opted out of the Foundation Seed Program due to time and equipment restraints.

Dr. Kephart also discussed research issues, and asked if the members would like to carry on with the February 2005 Research Review program. Terral Balzer moved to skip the 2005 Research Review due to the Sugar Beet Symposium to be held in January and also because of the current office building project and upcoming legislative session. Mike Greytak seconded. Motion carried.

Monica Lindeen took an opportunity to thank everyone for their support and help and mentioned that she will most likely be on the legislative appropriations committee and that Land Larson would be on the finance committee.

New Business

Dr. Mal Westcott led a short discussion regarding a MAES Housing Policy that will be going into effect in regards to the rental homes at each station. A uniform policy for all stations was needed.

Dr. Barry Jacobsen joined the meeting after the lunch break and gave a sugar beet presentation. It was well received by the committee.

Dr. Kephart led a discussion regarding SARC’s annual reporting process. In the future we will use a CD format rather than a paper copy. This was also well received by the committee membership.

A review of committee membership and participation was held. It was noted that Glen Leonhardt and Carter Miklovich have not shown an interest in the committee for some time and therefore will be taken off the committee. Term-limits were discussed. Kim Nile moved to move the present slate of officer’s timetable to start in 1998 instead of 1995, and then start the stagger system again. Basically this would add three more years to each member’s term. Ervin Schlemmer seconded. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

Rodney Jabs addressed a possible change to the bylaws to strike the words “no more than three, three year term limits. A discussion followed. Greg Lackman questioned the striking of the term limit sentence because it was his opinion that new people will not be looked at for possible membership. Rodney Jabs put this in the form of a motion. Terral Balzer seconded. Motion Carried. 5 for, and 3 opposed.

Election of Officers was held. Kim Nile moved to re-instate all present officers, David Kelsey, Chairman, Terral Balzer, Vice Chairman, and Rodney Jabs, Secretary. Motion seconded by Mark Helland. Motion Carried.

Dr. Kephart reiterated tentative dates of the upcoming legislative session. He will send letters to advisory members as the date gets closer.

Kim Nile mentioned that Dr. Barry Jacobsen has been awarded Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society and would like something to be presented during the sugar beet symposium. [Clark Schmidt, BASF, did so during the symposium luncheon].

Rodney Jabs moved and Kim Nile seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Submitted,
Tammy Balzer, Admin. Associate
Southern Agricultural Research Center