



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**UW EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Members present: Steve Binder, Amber Gilbertson, Doug Zellmer, Tim Macho, and Walt Ulbricht.

Extension Winnebago County staff present: Jayna Hintz, Jacob Kluza, Christi Gabriliska, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others present: None.

Meeting called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Binder.

B. Comments from the Public Related to Items on the Agenda/Requests to Add Items to the Next Agenda

None.

C. Approval of Minutes

1. December 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Zellmer, seconded by Gilbertson to approve the December 17, 2025 meeting minutes. Passed. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0.

D. Committee Chair's Report

Binder recognized Todd Wenzel and his team winning the Governor's Financial Literacy Award.

E. Reports and Updates

1. Safety Share

Zellmer discussed frostbite. Skin freezing causes tissue damage, often affecting fingers, toes, nose, ears, and cheeks. Symptoms include pain, numbness, swelling, discoloration, and blisters. To treat, gently rewarm with warm water and visit urgent care. People under 18 and over 65 are most at risk. Limit time outside, dress in layers, and keep your phone with you.

2. UW Division of Extension Program or Educator Reports and Updates

- December 2025 Extension Winnebago County Review

Committee members commended the report and e-newsletter.

- Health & Well-Being: Christi Gabriliska

Gabriliska reintroduced herself as the added 50% Health & Well-Being Educator after serving as the FoodWise Coordinator for 10 years. She will work alongside Katie Jaegly to focus on healthy eating and active living, similar to previous FoodWise efforts but no longer limited only to low-income families and schools. She plans to provide nutrition education in the Outdoor Learning Center and will explore potential collaborations with partners to provide or support nutrition and cooking classes in the community, schools, and farmers' markets. Gabriliska will

assess the needs of the community and partners to determine where she can focus her efforts. The Winnebago County Board recently passed a proposal to add two 3-year grant-funded school resource staff in the Health Department to help connect schools with other resources related to trauma, food security, transportation, truancy, etc. Discussion ensued.

- Horticulture - Jacob Kluza

Kluza provides a variety of community-based horticulture programming, including youth, public, and professional education. Programs include Gather at the Garden in the Outdoor Learning Center, Growing Healthy Kids at Casa Esther, Therapeutic Gardening at Park View Health Center, and various rec programming, library presentations, and farmers markets. Topics include community food systems, climate gardening, regenerative gardening, urban homesteading, and urban forestry. Kluza now manages the JPCC Rain Garden after the dissolution of the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association. Kluza shared his screen to provide a Food Access Map tutorial. Ulbricht requested a meeting with Kluza to advertise the Food Access Map once it's available to the public.

3. UW Division of Extension Department Administrative Report

- James P. Coughlin Center Facility Updates

No updates.

- Extension Winnebago County Staff & Department Updates

Winnebago County Scholarship applications have begun. Hintz will notify Todd Wenzel and Sarah Thompson that applications will come from the clerk's office after the deadline closes for review. Gabriliska started her new Health & Well-Being Educator position. Stephanie Bowers, Regional Dairy Educator resigned; her last day is February 6.

- UW-Madison Division of Extension Area/Region/State Updates

The Search & Screen Committee will conduct interviews on February 3 and 6 for the Area Extension Director position. Hintz will serve as mentor for the next AED.

4. Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion

None.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. UWO Fox Cities Closure Updates/Discussion

Ulbricht explained that Faith Technologies is still considering whether they can turn the campus into their new national training center. A closed session meeting is expected to discuss their findings on January 27. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

G. Communications Shared by Committee Members

None.

H. Next Meeting Date

1. February 18, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

Confirmed.

I. Adjourn

Binder entertained a motion to adjourn at 10:44 a.m.; Zellmer moved and Ulbricht seconded. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.

[MIN_FOOT]