



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**UW EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024**

A. Call to Order

Members Present: Steve Binder, Doug Zellmer, Amber Lyn Gilbertson, Tim Macho, and Walt Ulbricht. No members absent.

Extension Winnebago County Staff Present: Chris Viau, Sarah Thompson, Stephanie Bowers, Robin Franitza, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox Library System), Anna Dinkel (Carter Memorial Library - Omro), Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm (Neenah Public Library), Amanda O'Neal (Winneconne Public Library), Darryl Eschete (Oshkosh Public Library), Brian Kopetsky via Zoom (Elisha D. Smith Public Library - Menasha), Jon Doemel (Winnebago County Executive), Ethan Hollenberger (Winnebago County Executive Assistant), and Paula Way (Winnebago County Human Services).

Meeting called to order at 9:05 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. September 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Zellmer, seconded by Gilbertson to approve the September 19, 2024 meeting minutes. Binder abstained due to being absent. Passed. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 1.

D. Safety Share

Zellmer discussed deer rut safety awareness and shared statistics from Wisconsin's DOT and DNR. October and November have the highest number of automobile-deer collisions. He urged everyone to be alert and exercise caution while driving.

E. Committee Chair's Report

Binder expressed appreciation to the Executive's office for presenting the budget to expedite the approval process. He also thanked Winnefox Library representatives for presenting.

F. UW Fox Valley Closure Updates/Discussion

1. UWO-Fox Valley Item Documents

Hollenberger distributed and reviewed the Update on UWO - Fox Cities PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed some aspects of the UWO-Fox Cities campus closure: relationships of jurisdiction, issues involved with closing the campus, key assets, WEDC redevelopment grant, and options to consider regarding the facility and resources. There will be a special orders presentation on January 6, 2025 for further discussion. Ulbricht expressed his appreciation for the research and discussions done thus far by the county. He urged the

Executive's Office to consider the human factors involved with closing the campus, including factors related to the Barlow Planetarium, Weiss Earth Science Museum, and Childcare Center staff and community. Ulbricht reviewed some organizations in the Fox Valley in favor of supporting these community resources. Ulbricht distributed and reviewed a story from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel regarding the resignation of UW-Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt. Discussion ensued regarding declining enrollment for local campuses and the potential effects on the local economy. Committee members expressed their desires for use of the facility, childcare center, planetarium, and museum.

G. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Winnefox Library System Annual Reports

Library representatives reviewed some of their events, programming, and community impacts over the past year:

- *Anna Dinkel reviewed highlights from the Carter Memorial Library in Omro.*
- *Brian Kopetsky shared highlights from the Elisha D. Smith Public Library in Menasha. He also gave updates on the construction project.*
- *Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm reported highlights from the Neenah Public Library.*
- *Darryl Eschete delivered highlights from the Oshkosh Public Library.*
- *Amanda O'Neal presented highlights from the Winneconne Public Library.*
- *Sommersmith distributed a copy of the Winnefox Library System 2024 Highlights booklet for more information. She reviewed some circulation statistics. She distributed a copy of the 2025 Winnefox Library System budget request.*

2. Authorization for Winnebago County to Enter Into a Funding and Program Agreement with the Winnefox Library System for a Period Not to Exceed 5-years

Binder entertained a motion to approve the Authorization for Winnebago County to Enter Into a Funding and Program with Agreement with the Winnefox Library System for a Period Not to Exceed 5 Years. Motion by Zellmer, seconded by Ulbricht. Macho abstained due to conflict of interest. Passed. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 1.

H. 2025 County Executive Budget Proposal

1. 2025 Budget Overview by the County Executive

Doemel reviewed his presentation. County governments are only allowed to grow through Net New Construction, currently 1.04% for Winnebago County. Departments were asked to limit their budget request to as close to flat as possible, accounting for an expected 4% increase in wages. The budget includes a 6.52% increase in health insurance costs. Doemel reviewed the categories of the budget: Labor, Operating, Travel, and Capital Outlay. He explained the rationale for moving the budget process to a Priority-Based Budgeting (PBB) approach. This method helps identify what programs departments provide, how they align with county needs and mandates, and how programs can support each other without duplicating efforts. The goal includes developing annual budget requests to more closely match year-end actuals, accounting for true operating costs versus one-time costs. Doemel reviewed some challenges and changes over the last four years. Initiatives prioritize focusing on our people, improving communication for the public, and improving employee wellness and retention.

2. 2025 Programs and Budget Request Presentation by the Department Head

Viau reviewed his presentation. The UW-Extension department is a partnership between Winnebago County and UW-Madison Division of Extension. The department collaborates with local partners to bring tools and resources to the community through a variety of outreach efforts. The team consists of 16 individuals, including full-time, part-time, and shared multi-

county positions. There are 13 PBB programs: 11 directly related to educational outreach (4-H Youth Outreach, 4-H Youth Program & Volunteer Management, Financial Security/Human Development & Relationships Outreach, School & Community Youth Outreach, Healthy Eating/Active Living Outreach, Nutrition Education - FoodWise Outreach, Horticulture Outreach & Diagnostics, Horticulture Volunteer & Program Management, Agriculture Outreach - Crops & Soils, Agriculture Outreach - Dairy, and Community Development Outreach) and 2 supporting operations and government (J.P. Coughlin Center Meeting Room Reservations/User Support, and Extension Committee Support). Viau reviewed added value from UW-Madison partnership, initiatives, challenges, and the 2025 budget request.

3. Recommendation from the Committee on the 2025 Budget Requests
No action needed.

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

1. September/October 2024 Extension Winnebago County Review
Ulbricht expressed appreciation for the monthly e-newsletter that goes out. Hendrickson noted that the e-newsletter is a separate communication piece from the document provided for this meeting. The review document highlights completed programming and planning efforts. The e-newsletter more frequently highlights upcoming programming.
2. 4-H Youth & Science - Sarah Thompson
Thompson introduced herself. Thompson reviewed programming: National 4-H Week activities, the 4-H Fall Family Banquet, afterschool programming efforts, and ChickQuest. ChickQuest was provided in over a dozen local elementary schools this year. Cloverbud Blast is November 3rd from 1:00 - 3:00pm.
3. Dairy - Stephanie Bowers
Bowers introduced herself and her work in the dairy heifer grazing realm. She collaborates with UW-Oshkosh on monitoring and improving water quality and soil health through dairy heifer grazing. One goal is to develop a learning hub in Northeast WI to work more directly with local farms and help farmers learn about dairy heifer grazing, modern technologies, benefits to soil health and climate health, and move their farms forward with financial stability. Bowers has been certified in COMET (Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory), a program for helping farmers struggling with mental health challenges. Another focus is creating a user group for producers using automated milking systems to help identify challenges, benefits, and best fits.

J. Extension Admin and Department Report

1. Facility Updates
Meeting room reservation requests for 2025 are live in the new CivicRec platform. Requests for the remainder of 2024 will continue through the Google form.
2. Staff & Department Updates
Binder highlighted the importance of documentation throughout the year regarding program outcomes for evaluating and developing future budget requests within the PBB approach. Jaegly has become certified as a Real Colors facilitator to conduct trainings for Winnebago County staff and elsewhere in the community. Viau will be training 2 additional county employees to facilitate the program. Follow-up Real Colors classes are anticipated.
3. Area/Region/State Updates
None shared.

K. Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion

Gilbertson inquired about any specific events to promote for Red Ribbon week at the next county board meeting. Hendrickson will connect Gilbertson with Katie Jaegly for more info.

L. Communications Shared by Committee Members

None.

M. Committee Meeting Schedule

The third Thursday of the month at 9:00am works for next month. Extension staff will not be presenting due to being at the All-Colleague Conference in Madison. Viau may join via Zoom if schedule allows. Hendrickson will be present for tech and taking minutes.

N. Next Meeting Date

1. November 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
Confirmed.

O. Adjourn

Binder entertained a motion to adjourn at 11:54 a.m. Motion by Macho, seconded by Gilbertson. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.