



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**UW EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Members present: Steve Binder, Amber Gilbertson, and Tim Macho.

Extension Winnebago County staff present: Liliana Ramirez, Todd Wenzel, Katie Jaegly, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others present: JW (via Zoom). Cassie Smith-Gregor and Tori Kinderman (Clerk's Office).

Meeting called to order at 9:32 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. March 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Gilbertson, seconded by Macho to approve the March 18, 2026 meeting minutes. Passed. Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0.

D. Committee Chair's Report

Binder recognized committee members' attendance to always have a quorum over the last 2 years.

E. Reports and Updates

1. Safety Share

It's Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month. Gilbertson highlighted elopement triggers: goal-oriented or escaping or avoiding a situation due to fear, overstimulation, or high demand. Individuals with autism who elope are at risk for injury or death due to traffic, drowning, and weather-related exposure. Security systems, identification, and communication tools are vital.

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

- March 2026 Extension Winnebago County Review

Binder requested the 12 new board members be added to the mailing list for newsletters.

- Human Development & Relationships - Todd Wenzel

Wenzel reviewed Rent Smart online and in-person activity and participation. The domestic violence survivor track is in development. The Landlord Training is being updated and will pilot in September at the JPCC. The Reentry Ready financial literacy program won the governor's award, which Wenzel accepted in Madison last week. Reentry Ready is in 4 DOC prisons and 4 jails. An online version is conducted in Dodge Correctional due to it being a maximum security facility. 6-month post-release follow-up surveys are being developed to determine the effectiveness of the program. Planning AHEAD has seen increasing participation. Wenzel continues Family Engagement & Relationships programming, including Strong Couples, Triple P, Focus on Fathers, Resilient Co-Parenting, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, etc. Discussion ensued regarding various locations programming could be offered.

- Community Development - Mia Ljung

Mia Ljung was absent. Katie Jaegly presented on Health & Well-Being programming. Jaegly's focus is behavioral health; Christi Gabriliska's focus is nutrition. Summer programming plans include food access mapping and Outdoor Learning Center farm-to-table gardening, nutrition, mindfulness, and mindful gardening. WI Idea Week made connections to collaborate on programming. WeCOPE, Mental Health First Aid, and Strong Bodies programming continue. Jaegly is collaborating with Wenzel to bring 8 Dimensions of Wellness within the correctional institution's new career development training program. The Breakwater Coalition submitted a proposal to present at the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's mid-year conference. Mental Health 101 programming is being developed to give Extension professionals a background in foundational mental health concepts for when they are conducting programming. WeCOPE, QPR, and Mental Health First Aid (and other community programs) are existing programs that assume a basic understanding of mental health, but that basic understanding is not always present. Training for community members is a future goal.

3. UW Division of Extension Department Administrative Report

- James P. Coughlin Center Facilities Updates

Meeting room AV updates have concluded and have been functioning appropriately.

- Extension Winnebago County Staff, Department, & Budget Updates

WI Idea Week was last week. Robin Franitza, Katie Jaegly, and other staff coordinated the events, including collaborating with Public Health as part of Public Health Week. The Regional Dairy Educator position covering Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, and Winnebago counties is posted, closing April 21. Ramirez recognized Wenzel's efforts and recent award. Kevin Jarek recently received a Distinguished Service Award by Epsilon Sigma Phi for his 30 years in WI agricultural leadership. Ramirez called attention to the distributed March Budget Report.

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

None discussed.

4. Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion

None discussed.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. UWO Fox Cities Closure Updates/Discussion

No news. Macho inquired whether this committee should continue having this item on the agenda. Binder advised removing this item from the agenda due to the building being overseen by the Facilities Committee. Hendrickson will work with the Clerk's office to update the agenda to remove this standing item and update the quorum note at the bottom.

G. Communications Shared by Committee Members

None.

H. Next Meeting Date

1. May 20, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
Confirmed.

I. Adjourn

*Binder entertained a motion to adjourn at 10:31 a.m.; Macho moved and Gilbertson seconded.
Passed. Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0.*

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