



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**UW EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Members present: Lucas Reinke, Amber Gilbertson, KristL Laux, Tim Macho, and Tanya Keech.

Extension Winnebago County staff present: Liliana Ramirez, Jacob Kluza, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others present: Karen Powers; Hanson 26 (via Teams)

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Reinke.

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

Powers requested moving the scholarship portion of the agenda earlier due to her schedule.

Reinke initiated moving Item F1 to directly after the Committee Chair Report. Laux seconded.

Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.

C. Approval of Minutes

1. May 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Laux, seconded by Gilbertson to approve the May 20, 2026 meeting minutes.

Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.

D. Committee Chair's Report

Reinke had no report. He welcomed Powers to discuss the Winnebago County Scholarship.

E. Reports and Updates

1. Safety Share

Gilbertson discussed bicycle etiquette and safety. Cyclists should obey the rules of the road, wear visible colors and reflective bicycle elements, and wear protective gear. Reinke added to be aware of your local municipal ordinances and operate accordingly.

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

- **May 2026 Extension Winnebago County Review**

This document highlights recent programming for committee members to review and inquire about. Laux inquired about the Youth Transition Conference, which provides learning opportunities to help youth with disabilities transition into adulthood. Kluza conducted a gardening course and Katie Jaegly conducted a mental well-being course at the conference.

- **Horticulture - Jacob Kluza**

Kluza introduced himself and his 4 categories of horticulture programming: climate variability/resilience, environmental conservation, therapeutic horticulture, and food systems. He gave a tutorial of the Wisconsin Food Access Map. They've been conducting user testing sessions,

making adjustments, and planning a July launch. Discussion ensued. Committee members requested Kluza share the link when it goes live so they can share it on other committees.

3. UW Division of Extension Department Administrative Report

- James P. Coughlin Center Facilities Updates
- Extension Winnebago County Staff, Department, & Budget Updates
- UW-Madison Division of Extension Area/Region/State Updates

Ramirez shared that the office is still trying to update the JPCC meeting room policies and procedures. Once updates have been approved, they will be available online and in pamphlet form. A candidate has been identified for the Regional Dairy Educator position. More details will be shared when the candidate accepts the position and paperwork is completed. Ramirez called attention to the budget update. Laux requested this document be emailed prior to the meeting to provide more time for review. Ramirez attended the Annual Alignment Support for Extension Team leadership conference last month. It focused on helping AEDs and program managers better support the educators under their leadership.

4. Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion

Gilbertson suggested the Winnebago County Fair. Hendrickson called attention to the monthly office e-newsletter that typically goes out on the 15th for ideas. Kluza will attend various farmers markets within the county for horticulture programming and collect feedback on updating the Winnebago County Strategic Plan pillars.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Winnebago County Scholarship

Several Winnebago County Board Supervisors have expressed their interest in ensuring the Winnebago County Scholarship continues. Powers shared budgetary, procedural, and oversight history regarding the scholarship. Powers requested this committee appoint a task force to oversee the scholarship and report to this committee. Questions and discussion ensued regarding how scholarships are reviewed, scored, and the workload involved for task force members. Reinke acknowledged the uncertainties regarding the scholarship process. Reinke will investigate with Corporation Counsel regarding the statute/jurisdiction for the scholarship. Reinke requested this be on next month's agenda.

G. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Macho highlighted this committee's unclear oversight/jurisdiction of the Winnebago County Scholarship, Winnebago County Fair, UW Fox Cities Campus, and Winnefox Library System. The UW Fox Cities campus is still recorded as under this committee and needs to be updated. Reinke suggested reviewing the statutes of this committee's jurisdiction and having Corporation Counsel present that information to the committee. Reinke requested this item be added to the next agenda.

H. Next Meeting Date

1. July 15, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Discussion ensued about rescheduling the July meeting so that committee members can attend the Winnebago County Strategic Planning Session. The consensus was for Thursday, July 16 at 4:00pm. Laux moved; Macho seconded. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.

I. Adjourn

Reinke entertained a motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.; Laux moved and Gilbertson seconded. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.

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