



**UW EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024**

A. Call to Order

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

Members absent: None.

Extension Winnebago County Staff Present: Chris Viau, Todd Wenzel, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: Ethan Hollenberger.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 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. November 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Zellmer, seconded by Gilbertson to approve the November 21, 2024 meeting minutes. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.

D. Committee Chair's Report

Binder wished everyone a Merry Christmas and encouraged everyone to spend time with loved ones while they still can.

E. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. UWO Fox Cities Closure Updates/Discussion

Hollenberger shared that there is a draft agreement in progress to terminate the campus' partnership with the Universities of Wisconsin System. There is a potential grant available from Economic Development Corporation for redevelopment. Negotiations are still in progress. Factors include the interest of multiple stakeholders, cultural assets, and staff employment. Ulbricht expanded that the cultural assets of the UWO Fox Cities campus include the Barlow Planetarium, Weis Earth Science Museum, Communication Arts Center, University Children's Center (childcare), and Community Garden. Ulbricht distributed the December 2024 edition of the Fox Cities Magazine, calling attention to an article about the UWO Fox Cities Campus on page 13. Binder requested Hollenberger determine the cost of funding the 5 cultural assets through the end of 2025 if an agreement is not yet in place beginning July 1, 2025 in order to avoid an interruption of services. Binder and Hollenberger reviewed the timeline for a resolution going through the Facilities and Property Management Committee, Personnel & Finance Committee, and the Winnebago County Board.

F. Reports and Updates

1. Safety Share

Zellmer called attention to holiday scams. According to the FBI, \$281 million was lost in the U.S. due to holiday scams in 2022. Report fraud to the authorities. Zellmer reviewed a few common scams and helpful strategies to avoid falling victim.

2. Winnebago County Fair Association Annual Report - Mike Domke

Domke reviewed the revenues and expenses from the 2024 Winnebago County Fair: profit was \$12,343, expenses were \$418,990. He reviewed attendance and attractions and activities. Discussion ensued. Ulbricht asked about transportation options for people to attend the fair. Discussion ensued. Binder inquired about how much of ticket sales go to the rides. Discussion ensued. Binder commended all the volunteer work done to host the fair. The board just completed elections and is full with 19 members. Domke reviewed a new program for youth with special needs who are not part of 4-H or FFA to show animals. Gilbertson inquired about "quiet/reset spaces" for kids with sensory overstimulation. Discussion ensued regarding "sensory days" and other possible accommodations to explore. Binder and Domke discussed future renovations planned for the fairgrounds, to be completed by Lifest 2026. Domke distributed copies of the preliminary 2024 Annual Financial Report - Treasurer's Summary. Domke expressed appreciation to the county board members for supporting the fair.

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

- November/December 2024 Extension Winnebago County Review
None.

- Human Development & Relationships - Todd Wenzel
Wenzel reviewed Rent Smart. 241 certificates issued in 2024: 70 at Oshkosh Correctional Institution, 15-20 at NOVA Counseling, 95 at Pillars, 13 at Tiny House Village, and 45 at the Drug Abuse Correctional Center. Additional certificates were issued for online courses. Classes at Genesis House will begin in January. Rent Smart Train the Trainer is held twice per year; the next session is in January. There is interest in resuming a Landlord Education workshop. Feedback on rental education programs has been overwhelmingly positive with increasing interest. Reentry Ready Focus on Finances is being presented in county jails and DOC facilities statewide. Reentry Ready was presented at the 2024 National Conference and will be presented in upcoming conference(s) as well. The group is working on collecting follow-up data from post-release participants who have completed the program to examine program outcomes. Wenzel invited committee members to observe any of his programming at the correction facilities. Binder inquired about training programs for new homeowners. Discussion ensued. Wenzel distributed Planning AHEAD workbooks and reviewed the program. He invited committee members to attend an upcoming course. Wenzel is also involved with Encouraging Financial Conversations, parenting programs (Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, Family Transitions, Resilient Co-Parenting, and Focus on Fathers), Housing Coalition meetings, and collaborating with the Housing Authority. Wenzel will be offering financial education during Wisconsin Idea Week, April 7 - 11, 2025. Viau and Wenzel explained Wisconsin Idea Week plans to educate the public and stakeholders on our programming. Gilbertson requested more info about the Triple P program, asking for the upcoming class schedule.

4. UW Division of Extension Department Administrative Report

- James P. Coughlin Center Facility Updates

JPCC meeting room reservations are now managed in CivicRec, a CivicPlus platform. In January, we'll give a report on 2024 meeting room usage. More regular reports can be expected in 2025 regarding meeting room usage and management.

- **Extension Winnebago County Staff & Department Updates**

Berger intends to bring back Arianna Buehring for the summer program associate position to focus on supporting and adding capacity to existing programming. Viau and Berger are pursuing partnership with AmeriCorps and 4-H grants to bring in additional assistance to focus on outreach and new audiences.

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

Extension Waupaca County may be transitioning to a temporary location while renovations are being completed on the courthouse.

5. **Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion**

Gilbertson reviewed the information she shared at last night's county board meeting regarding mental health around the holidays. Viau suggested highlighting FoodWise's Harvest of the Month program at the next county board meeting.

G. Communications Shared by Committee Members

None.

H. Next Meeting Date

Macho expressed his appreciation for adjusting the meeting schedule.

1. **January 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**

Confirmed.

I. Adjourn

Binder entertained a motion to adjourn at 10:44 a.m. Motion by Zellmer, seconded by Ulbrich. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.