



Winnebago County

*The Wave of the Future*

**UW EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

**A. Call to Order**

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

*Extension Winnebago County Staff Present: Chris Viau, Christi Gabriliska, Hannah Phillips, and Amy Hendrickson.*

*Others Present: Catherine Neiswender.*

*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. January 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

*Motion by Gilbertson, seconded by Macho to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.*

**D. Committee Chair's Report**

*Binder thanked everyone for braving the cold weather to attend this meeting. Yesterday's election resulted in Jon Doemel and Gordon Hintz as candidates for County Executive in the April election.*

**E. Reports and Updates**

1. Safety Share

*Zellmer presented statistics and safety regarding cold weather. 4.6 million people die worldwide each year due to severe cold. Infants and older individuals are most susceptible to hypothermia. Cold temperatures can also increase blood pressure and strain on the heart. Dress in layers and use common sense to be safe.*

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

- January/February 2025 Extension Winnebago County Review

*Zellmer inquired about funding concerns due to current federal administration initiatives.*

*Gabriliska and Viau assured that FoodWise and Extension staff will continue to provide education while being fiscally cautious and resourceful. More information will be shared as it becomes available.*

- FoodWise FY24 Year-End Report - Christi Gabriliska & Hannah Phillips

*Gabrilska reviewed the FoodWise 2024 Fiscal Year-End Report. 10% of Winnebago County residents use SNAP benefits; more residents may be eligible but not using these benefits. Gabrilska reviewed some of Kris Soper's work: elementary school nutrition lessons, Farmers Market Tours, and nutrition and cooking lessons at community gardens, shelters, and food pantries. Phillips reviewed programming conducted with 4 community garden partners. Phillips and Miranda Dawson developed the Network for Well-Being to connect professionals working in well-being fields. Gabrilska reviewed the variety of education provided at Extension's Outdoor Classroom via 4-H, Horticulture, Oshkosh Public Library, and FoodWise partnership. Produce from this garden was donated to the Day by Day Warming Shelter and used in nutrition and cooking lessons there.*

3. UW Division of Extension Department Administrative Report

- James P. Coughlin Center Facility Updates

*This is the second month of utilizing the new meeting room management software. Viau and Hendrickson recently participated in Winnebago County's space needs study.*

- Extension Winnebago County Staff & Department Updates

*Regional Crops & Soils Educator, Kevin Jarek, is out on leave until sometime in March. Private Pesticide Applicator training and testing opportunities are still underway. Our office is developing an Annual Impact Report to be shared in April/May, hopefully in time for the WI Ideas Week. This report will also be utilized for 2026 priority-based budgeting process.*

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

*The state biennial process began in January. Extension will continue to be an active participant in responding to funding changes at federal, state, and county levels.*

4. Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion

*Extension is on the February 25th County Board Meeting agenda to present an invitation to participate in WI Idea Week. Materials will be available for distribution and sharing.*

**F. Business Items**

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. UWO Fox Cities Closure Updates/Discussion

*Ulbricht stated there is a meeting at noon today with Facilities and Property Management. A proposal will be presented during a closed portion of this meeting with more details regarding a potential occupant. Discussion ensued regarding maintenance and expenses for the last half of 2025 before the new occupant(s) take(s) over. Ulbricht reviewed updates needed for the Barlow Planetarium. Neiswender inquired whether there is a Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday. Binder confirmed the schedule; the agenda packet should be available soon.*

**G. Communications Shared by Committee Members**

*None.*

**H. Next Meeting Date**

1. March 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

*Confirmed.*

**I. Adjourn**

*Binder moved to adjourn at 10:06 a.m., seconded by Ulbricht. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.*