



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**UW EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025**

A. Call to Order

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

Extension Winnebago County Staff Present: Chris Viau, Stephanie Bowers, Katie Jaegly, Todd Wenzel, Jacob Kluza, Kris Soper, Dana Berger, Mia Ljung, Amy Hendrickson, and Robin Franitza (via Zoom).

Others Present: None.

Meeting called to order at 9:01 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. April 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Gilbertson, seconded by Macho to approve the April 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Passed. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 1.

D. Committee Chair's Report

Binder welcomed Macho's return after surgery. Binder noted Viau's resignation.

E. Reports and Updates

1. Safety Share

Zellmer shared statistics regarding severe weather and discussed safety precautions.

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

• 2024 Extension Winnebago County Impact Report

The 2024 Extension Winnebago County Impact Report was distributed. Viau expressed appreciation to the educators for their contributions and to Franitza for compiling and designing the report. The report will be distributed to stakeholders and be available for the community. Extension Winnebago County staff shared highlights from each of their program areas. A digital copy of the Impact report can be found in the attachments tab of this meeting or at <https://winnebago.extension.wisc.edu/files/2025/06/Winnebago-Impact-Report-2024.pdf>.

3. UW Division of Extension Department Administrative Report

- James P. Coughlin Center Facility Updates

None discussed.

- Extension Winnebago County Staff & Department Updates

Viau and Hendrickson have begun 2026 budget planning. 5-year planning for Capital/Remodeling, Labor, and Technology is a new expectation this year. Planning will include meeting room upgrades to the dividing wall and technology to better serve meeting room users. Planning will also look at county administrative support positions to better serve the changing roles of AEDs due to potential financial changes at the state level. Viau's last day is June 27. Jeremy Solin will be overseeing Viau's departure, interim AED supervision, and transition to a new AED once the position is filled. Zellmer and Binder expressed their appreciation for Viau's service and partnership.

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

Universities of Wisconsin Division of Extension offices historically have multiple funding sources: Federal funding, State funding, County funding, and philanthropic funding, including grants and donations. Budgets are tight, and some funding sources are in flux or uncertain at this time. Viau highlighted the commitment to ensure that positions are protected and have the opportunity to grow and meet community needs.

4. Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion

None specified.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. UWO Fox Cities Closure Updates/Discussion

Ulbricht is part of a group planning to raise \$5 million for the Barlow Planetarium. The agreement passed for Winnebago County to take ownership beginning July 1. The goal is to find new tenants and be able to continue funding the daycare and Barlow Planetarium. Discussion ensued.

G. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Zellmer extended thanks to Viau.

H. Next Meeting Date

1. June 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Confirmed.

I. Adjourn

Binder entertained a motion to adjourn at 11:01 a.m. Motion by Zellmer, seconded by Gilbertson. Passed. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0.

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