



Winnebago County

*The Wave of the Future*

**UW EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025**

**A. Call to Order**

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

*Extension Winnebago County Staff Present: Chris Viau, Jayna Hintz, Todd Wenzel, Dana Berger, and Amy Hendrickson.*

*Others Present: Mike Domke and Matt Neuman (Winnebago County Fair Association).*

*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. May 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

*Motion by Zellmer, seconded by Gilbertson to approve the May 21, 2025 meeting minutes. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.*

**D. Committee Chair's Report**

*Binder expressed appreciation and well wishes to Viau. Viau introduced Hintz as the interim AED.*

**E. Reports and Updates**

**1. Safety Share**

*Zellmer shared information regarding e-bike and e-scooter safety for users and others.*

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

- April & May 2025 Extension Winnebago County Review

*Committee members expressed appreciation for the monthly e-newsletter and report.*

- Winnebago County Fair Association - Mike Domke

*Domke and Neuman spoke about the upcoming Winnebago County Fair: July 30–August 3. "Carnival Lights & Action-Packed Nights" is the theme. Binder suggested reconsidering membership fees due to cost-comparison with ticket prices; Domke will bring the topic back to the board for discussion. Sunday will be sensory-friendly from 11:00am - 2:00pm for individuals with sensory sensitivities to be able to attend. There will be more golf carts for increased accessibility as well. Berger shared 4-H activities scheduled for the fair.*

- Human Development & Relationships - Todd Wenzel

Wenzel is co-chair of the state Rent Smart team. 142 in-person and 38 online certificates have been issued so far in 2025, including classes at OSCI, NOVA Counseling, Pillars Adult & Family Shelter, Father Carr's, and the DACC. Planning is underway for in-person classes open to the public at LEAVEN. The team received a Wisconsin Idea Collaboration Grant to develop add-ins for survivors of domestic violence. They are also planning a landlord training. Rent Smart Train the Trainer sessions continue. Reentry Ready Focus on Finances continues in correctional facilities; a post-class evaluation and follow-up surveys are being developed. The Reentry Ready team has received an award via Epsilon Sigma Phi. Other continuing programming includes Planning AHEAD, Encouraging Financial Conversations, Strong Couples, Focus on Fathers, Triple-P (Positive Parenting Program), and Resilient Co-Parenting. Statewide financial educators will meet with faculty and researchers on campus this summer. Wenzel will attend the NEAFCS national conference in Michigan in October. Binder inquired about developing a program for transitioning from renting to homeownership.

3. UW Division of Extension Department Administrative Report

- James P. Coughlin Center Facility Updates

Viau and Hendrickson are working with other departments to initiate capital improvements in the JPCC meeting rooms. Replacement of the dividing wall in Conference Room A/B and technology upgrades for meeting rooms are under consideration/planning for the future.

- Extension Winnebago County Staff & Department Updates

Introductions transpired. Hintz is the Area Extension Director (AED) for Calumet, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan counties and will be the interim Winnebago County AED through September. The 2026 department budget request is due June 26th. Federal legislation expected to pass includes the discontinuation of SNAP-Ed funding. If the SNAP-Ed funding is cut, it is anticipated that all FoodWise staff may be laid off effective September 30th. According to the 2024 Winnebago County SNAP-Ed Impact Report, 409 youth and 190 adults received direct education from Winnebago FoodWise staff. Total learning interactions included 1,943 youth and 381 adult engagements. FoodWise benefits 35,000 Wisconsinites statewide.

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

See staff and department updates section.

4. Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion

It was suggested to highlight upcoming 4-H activities at the 2025 Winnebago County Fair.

**F. Business Items**

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. UWO Fox Cities Closure Updates/Discussion

Winnebago County's estimated cost to run the campus from July 1–December 31, 2025 is \$870,000. Ulbricht is helping to raise \$2.1 million for Barlow Planetarium updates. Winnebago County is hosting a public forum on June 25th from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m at the Fox Cities United Way office. The campus has 2 years to prove itself financially viable and self-sustaining.

**G. Communications Shared by Committee Members**

None.

**H. Next Meeting Date**

1. July 16, 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 Ulbricht.  
Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.*

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