



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**UW EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025**

A. Call to Order

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

Extension Winnebago County Staff Present: Jayna Hintz, Christi Gabriliska, Miranda Dawson, Dana Berger, Sarah Thompson, and Jacob Kluza.

Others Present: None.

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Binder.

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

Berger distributed Fair Billboard contest submission packets. Committee members should rate the submissions and turn them in at the end of this meeting. Winners will be announced at the fair.

C. Approval of Minutes

1. June 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Zellmer, seconded by Macho to approve the June 18, 2025 meeting minutes.

Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.

D. Committee Chair's Report

Binder thanked Hintz for stepping into her interim role and offered his assistance as needed. Binder attended the NaCo Annual Conference and reviewed funding cuts to Medicaid and SNAP.

E. Reports and Updates

1. Safety Share

Zellmer discussed invasive Japanese beetles. While destructive to 350+ species of plants, they are not harmful to humans. Zellmer and Kluza shared tips to combat the beetles.

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

- June 2025 Extension Winnebago County Review

See document.

- Horticulture - Jacob Kluza

Kluza focuses on four areas for programming: climate change, food sovereignty, general horticulture knowledge, and Outdoor Learning Center gardening and education. He received generous donations of plant materials from Fleet Farm and Fernau's. They have been used as giveaways at area farmers markets. Kluza will present on the food mapping project at a later date. Kluza toured the UW Fox Cities campus. He noted the future programming potential of the community gardens and the greenhouse spaces. Discussion ensued.

- 4-H Youth & Science - Sarah Thompson

Thompson distributed photos and directed committee members to access the link in the July newsletter to watch a 4-H Summer Camp compilation. Weather altered activities, but flexibility ensured camp was a success. Ambassadors promoted 4-H at the Neenah-Menasha Parade of Lights on July 3. Cloverbud Camp on July 15 focused on gardening and sampling produce. Fall programming planning is underway. Experience 4-H at the Fair from July 30–August 3.

- FoodWise Federal Funding Update - Christi Gabriliska

Gabriliska recapped that SNAP-Ed funding has been discontinued, as of September 30. FoodWise could continue to exist if other funding can be secured. Staff will likely receive layoff notices, being phased out according to tenure. Dawson reviewed her work with UWO Head Start, Oshkosh Boys & Girls Club, and after-school programming. She started the Fox Valley Network for Well-being as a space for program/resource sharing among area professionals to expand and share with their audiences. Hintz shared ideas counties can explore if they are interested in funding FoodWise education. Discussion ensued.

3. UW Division of Extension Department Administrative Report

- James P. Coughlin Center Facility Updates

The JPCC meeting room policies are in the process of being updated. Facilities will be handling the eventual replacement of the Room A/B dividing wall.

- Extension Winnebago County Staff & Department Updates

Hintz has been conducting one-on-one meetings to get to know staff, their programs, and their needs in order to advocate for the work they do and for Extension.

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

Already discussed in the FoodWise Federal Funding Update.

4. Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion

Binder will report on the FoodWise federal funding elimination and the plan to request funding in the county budget to continue FoodWise education in the county.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. UWO Fox Cities Closure Updates/Discussion

Binder reported the possibility of the Neenah Human Services staff relocating to the campus, thereby offsetting some of the operating costs. The campus will need to be self-sustaining.

G. Communications Shared by Committee Members

None.

H. Next Meeting Date

1. August 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
Confirmed.

I. Adjourn

Binder entertained a motion to adjourn at 10:14 a.m. Motion by Zellmer, seconded by Gilbertson. Passed. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0.

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