



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**UW EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**

A. Call to Order

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

Extension Winnebago County Staff Present: Jayna Hintz, Kristine Soper, Stephanie Bowers, and Robin Franitza.

Others Present: Stefanie Holt, and Jessica Wisneski (via Zoom).

Meeting called to order at 9:02 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. August 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Macho, seconded by Gilbertson to approve the August 20, 2025 meeting minutes.

Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.

D. Committee Chair's Report

Binder shared that the budget meetings went well. The FoodWise/Nutrition educator has been added for a part-time position. He shared hopes that Outagamie County would also take on a part-time position to share between the counties.

Supervisor Stefanie Holt arrived to attend the Extension committee meeting. General introductions were given by Extension staff that were present.

E. Reports and Updates

1. Safety Share

Zellmer noted safety for back-to-school traffic, noting nationwide statistics. Discussion continued, including the use of e-bikes and motorized scooters in the area.

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

Binder explains the Educator Reports and Updates document to Holt.

- August 2025 Extension Winnebago County Review

None discussed.

- Agriculture: Dairy - Stephanie Bowers

Bowers reported working with new technologies for farm management. Virtual fencing is the primary focus right now. Bowers is working with farmers to negotiate the best business practice for labor concerns and end-of-life transfers of their farm and business. She is working

with the University of Missouri on new technology to assist with monitoring grazing areas, and with a company in Norway to introduce a secondary brand for virtual fencing.

- FoodWlse - Kris Soper

Soper's last day with FoodWlse is September 30, so she has been finishing up her summer programming, including garden programs, the Outdoor Learning Center, and the Menasha Boys & Girls Club. She has her last official Farmers Market Tour later this month. Soper will continue to volunteer with various organizations, including the Farmers Market Tours, the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, and SOAR in Appleton. She will continue to be an employee of Extension until December, and will be available mostly by appointment, as she is retiring as of September 30th.

3. UW Division of Extension Department Administrative Report

- James P. Coughlin Center Facilities Updates

There is no further update about the JPCC meeting room policy updates. Technology updates for the meeting rooms are still awaiting proposals.

- Extension Winnebago County Staff & Department Updates

Budgets were submitted at the budget meetings. In October, the budget will be presented to the Committee.

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

Jayna Hintz has been informed that her interim AED position with Winnebago County has been extended to the end of December. Extension is being conservative in their hiring process, and there will be a plan by January. Discussion continued noted the difficulties and successes of this time of transition.

Macho asked about the Winnefox Library system being a part of Extension. Franitza responded that they library directors will be in attendance at the October 15, 2025 meeting.

4. Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion

The 4-H pizza sale was discussed.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. UWO Fox Cities Closure Updates/Discussion

Ulbricht shared that the property condition report showed the buildings were in good structural condition other than minor repairs. The leakage from the roof has been fixed. Executive Hintz continues to seek managing teams for leases and activities at the campus, as well as looking into additional uses for the undeveloped green space on the campus. The Barlow Planetarium's "Barlow Future Foundation" received 501(c)(3) status and will look into fundraising opportunities.

Saturday Sept 27th at 3pm: the reopening celebration for the Planetarium.

To be scheduled: donors from the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region would like to tour the Planetarium.

Discussion continued regarding possible uses of the campus.

G. Communications Shared by Committee Members

None.

H. Next Meeting Date

1. October 15, 2025 at 9:00am
Confirmed.

I. Adjourn

*Binder entertained a motion to adjourn at 10:32 a.m.; Zellmer moved and Ulbriched seconded.
Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.*

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