



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**UW EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 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, Todd Wenzel, Mia Ljung, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others present: JW (via Zoom).

Meeting called to order at 9:02am 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. October 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Zellmer, seconded by Ulbricht to approve the October 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.

D. Committee Chair's Report

Binder announced that Extension Winnebago County has been realigned with Outagamie and Brown counties. Hiring will begin soon for the new Area Extension Director.

E. Reports and Updates

1. Safety Share

Zellmer discussed black ice. It's difficult to see and makes driving and walking dangerous due to sudden loss of traction. Do the "penguin shuffle" when walking on slick surfaces. When driving, know the road conditions, drive cautiously, and avoid sudden braking or sharp turns.

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

- October 2025 Extension Winnebago County Review

Ulbricht requested a list of media outlets receiving the monthly e-newsletter for promoting.

- Community Development - Mia Ljung

Ljung has been facilitating Real Colors sessions for Winnebago and Outagamie county staff. She has also been helping evaluate the ColorBold Business Association program's business workshops for entrepreneurs. The Fast Pitch event was a success; the 2026 event will be held in Winnebago County. Plain Language training sessions were done in September and October; 2026 trainings are scheduled for March and April. She encouraged committee members to attend future sessions. Ljung is helping develop a Memorandum of

Understanding between Winnebago County and ADVOCAP regarding the community gardens at the UWO Fox Cities campus. Discussion ensued regarding process.

- Human Development & Relationships - Todd Wenzel

Rent Smart has issued more certificates this year than last year's total. The Rent Smart team is using WI Idea Grant funding to develop a trauma-informed version of Rent Smart. Wenzel attended landlord association meetings to discuss Rent Smart. He completed an interview with WHBY's Focus Fox Valley about Rent Smart. Wenzel and a state partner conducted a Rent Smart Train the Trainer session in Alabama. Reentry Ready continues to provide financial education in correctional institutions. Planning AHEAD sessions continue to guide participants through planning for end-of-life at any age. Encouraging Financial Conversations continues to train professionals on how to have financial conversations with their program participants. Wenzel has also been doing Strong Couples, Focus on Fathers, Triple P Positive Parenting Program, and Resilient Co-Parenting programming. NeighborWorks is the local program that helps train participants on how to become homeowners.

3. UW Division of Extension Department Administrative Report

- James P. Coughlin Center Facility Updates

Extension Winnebago County is waiting on feedback from the Department of Administration regarding JPCC Meeting Room policy updates.

- Extension Winnebago County Staff & Department Updates

Staff from Area 10 (Outagamie & Winnebago), Area 12 (Calumet, Manitowoc, & Sheboygan), and Waupaca County gathered in Chilton on November 5 for a professional development day.

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

Hintz shared that Extension continues to navigate significant budget reductions prompted by federal funding cuts and a UW-Madison campus-wide budget reduction. Based upon the input received from a recent survey sent to our county partners related to the Area Director role, and to address the budget shortfall, the number of AEDs statewide will be reduced from 21 to 19. That decision prompted a realignment of the counties each AED serves. Winnebago, Outagamie, and Brown counties will be the new configuration for our area. Hintz expects to remain in her interim AED position through the end of January. Jeremy Solin, Associate Dean, via email invited partners from each county to serve on the search committee for the new AED that will oversee the new configuration. Hintz reiterated the invite and encouraged involvement from the committee. Binder inquired about whether Extension Winnebago could oversee Winnebago County Board scholarship application reviews, which are awarded in April. Discussion ensued.

4. Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion

Binder will share Extension's new Winnebago, Outagamie, and Brown county configuration.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. UWO Fox Cities Closure Updates/Discussion

Executive Hintz wants a master plan for the property. Macho highlighted childcare and senior living possibilities for the campus. Fundraising is in progress to update the Barlow Planetarium. Binder highlighted the need for generating revenue. Discussion ensued.

G. Communications Shared by Committee Members

None.

H. Next Meeting Date

1. December 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
Confirmed.

I. Adjourn

*Binder entertained a motion to adjourn at 10:27am; Zellmer moved and Macho seconded.
Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.*

[MIN FOOT]