



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**UW EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024**

A. Call to Order

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

Members Absent: None.

Extension Winnebago County Staff Present: Chris Viau, Dana Berger, Kevin Jarek, and Amy Hendrickson.

Others Present: None.

Meeting called to order at 8:59 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. July 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

*Motion by Zellmer, seconded by Gilbertson to approve the July 18, 2024 meeting minutes.
Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.*

D. Safety Share

Back to school season is fast approaching. An average of 100 children are killed and 25,000 children are injured annually in the U.S. on their way to and from school as a result of pedestrian-vehicle collisions. Speeding and inattention by drivers and children are the main causes. Slow down, know your area, know where school crossings are, and watch out for children who may cross outside of crossings. Gilbertson inquired about expanding education on school zone safety to children.

E. Committee Chair's Report

Binder expressed appreciation for 4-H and all the volunteers that helped organize and carry out the 2024 Winnebago County Fair.

F. UW Fox Valley Closure Updates/Discussion

Viau will be taking a tour of various locations in the Outagamie/Winnebago area while having conversations regarding the future of the UW Fox Valley campus. Ulbricht shared that the July 26th meeting was canceled. The next meeting is at 1:00pm on Monday, August 26th. There will be a motion regarding real estate appraisal. Discussions related to the use of the campus are ongoing. UW Fox Valley has been responsible for selecting winners for the Winnebago County scholarship. Future discussion will be needed to determine responsibility going forward. Teri Gee, Barlow Planetarium Director, applied for and was awarded a grant to fund a portable planetarium.

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

1. August 2024 Extension Winnebago County Review
Binder invited discussion regarding the office e-newsletter and monthly review document. Binder highlighted the section about the Master Gardener volunteer organization.
2. 4-H Youth Development - Dana Berger
Berger distributed and reviewed the Winnebago County 4-H August 2024 Program Report & Update. Club annual financial reports are due September 1st. Berger's 2024-2025 Plan of Work continues to focus on program quality and expanding access. Berger noted increases in total enrollments, after-school and classroom club enrollments, and retention rate. Winnebago County leads the state in 4-H enrollments and innovative programming. The Outdoor Classroom has been a huge success for summer programming. 4-H Summer Assistant, Arainna Buehring, organized a variety of July workshops for the youth; many of the projects ended up at the fair. Upcoming events were reviewed. Berger will bring some 4-H Record Books for committee members to see later this year. Berger will be completing an Agricultural Literacy Certification course. Discussion ensued regarding expanding access. Binder inquired about ways to recognize the fair board for all the work they do. Berger suggested incorporating recognition at the 4-H Family Banquet. Berger distributed the state publication: Wisconsin 4-H Impact Report 2023.
3. Crops & Soils - Kevin Jarek
Jarek introduced himself to the committee members. He expressed his appreciation to the committee members for serving. Jarek briefly reviewed the PowerPoint presentation provided in the meeting materials. The Regional Summer Twilight Meeting for farmers and AG professionals is this evening. Jarek works with both the private and public sectors, identifying people and resources for sharing information/knowledge to help farmers become/remain economically viable and environmentally sound. His focus is forage, which then supports grazing animals. Jarek will celebrate 25 years with Extension this fall. Changing weather trends and variable conditions have a great impact on Wisconsin crops. Jarek reviewed some data comparing different crop yields and issues over the past years. He invited committee members to reach out for additional information or questions at any time. Jarek expressed appreciation for his partnership with Sheila Smith and Emily Dufek in the Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation department.

H. Extension Admin and Department Report

1. Facility Updates
Winter is coming; preparation will involve moving some weather-sensitive items from the Outdoor Classroom into the department's garage space.
2. Staff & Department Updates
There will be a new format next month for the program/educator updates report. Feedback is welcome. The UW Student Hire Platform has been very efficient and helpful for recruiting and hiring seasonal help. The UW Madison Division of Wisconsin All-Colleague Conference this fall may impact the November committee meeting. All state staff and county support staff are highly encouraged to attend. Several educators will be attending and/or presenting at upcoming conferences. Binder expressed his appreciation for the timeliness of meeting materials being available online and via mail.
3. Area/Region/State Updates
Already discussed with Staff & Department Updates.

I. Announcing Upcoming Extension Events at County Board Meeting Discussion

The Extension Winnebago County e-newsletter will be sent out today. Viau encouraged committee members to review the e-newsletter once received for ideas on what events to share at the next board meeting.

J. Communications Shared by Committee Members

No discussion.

K. Committee Meeting Schedule

No discussion.

L. Next Meeting Date

1. September 19, 2024
September 19th at 9:00am confirmed.

M. Adjourn

Binder entertained a motion to adjourn at 10:31 a.m., Moved by Zellmer, seconded by Macho. Passed. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0.