



MEETING MINUTES

Committee: Agriculture & Extension Committee
Date: August 4, 2025
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: County Board Room, Lower Level of the Safety Building, 840 Clermont Street

The following discussion was held by the Committee at the meeting detailed above:

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Curler
2. Conduct Roll Call: Wickersheim and Bina absent. Zagar arrived at 5:30 p.m.
3. Please silence all cell phones
4. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance

AG & EXTENSION AND LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE/SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

Name	Role	Status
Doug Curler	Chair	Present
Jeff Wickersheim	Vice-Chair	Absent
Zach Zagar	Member	Present
Rick Bina	Member	Absent
Dan Schremp	Member	Present

Non-Committee Members Present

Name	Interest	Name	Interest
Mandi Dornfeld	Area Extension Director	Erin Sabo	4-H Educator
Teri Kolb	FoodWise Program	Kevin Gallenberg	Research Station Manager
Becky Rank	Deputy Cty. Clerk/ Recording Secretary		

5. **Approve previous meeting minutes of April 14, 2025:** Motion by Zagar, second by Curler, to approve the previous meeting minutes of April 14, 2025. All ayes, motion carried.
6. **Program Updates:** FoodWise Program, 4-H Program, Agriculture Program, Agriculture Research Station, Office Program Assistant:
 - FoodWise Administrator Kolb stated she is the FoodWise Administrator for Forest, Florence, Oneida, Vilas, Lincoln, Langlade, Taylor, and Price Counties. Kolb stated the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension is ending its 30-year FoodWise Nutrition Education Program and laying off more than 90 people after losing a federal grant. The Congressional budget reconciliation bill that was signed into law on July 4, 2025, eliminated all National Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Programs (SNAP-Ed) funding, effective September 30, 2025. Kolb stated Langlade County FoodWise Educator Beth Kessler was unable to attend today's meeting. Kolb stated Kessler did programming in Antigo, Elcho, and White Lake School Districts, senior meal sites, Special Olympics, Boys & Girls Club, HOPE House, Adult Day Services, etc. Kolb stated Boys and Girls Club has partnered with Feeding America to combat food insecurity. This partnership has provided meals and resources to children and families in need, particularly during out-of-school times. This program has been near and dear to Kessler's heart. Kolb stated that due to the federal funding cuts, Kessler will be laid off, affecting all of the facilities/programs listed above.
 - 4-H Educator Sabo presented the Committee with a written report. Sabo updated the Committee on the June 2025 Summer Camp; there were 16 Langlade County youths, and 9 youth counselors. Langlade County had one youth participate in the week-long leadership and civic engagement

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experience in Washington, D.C. This summer, 8 enthusiastic youth from Langlade County 4-H participated in the 2025 Discover Wisconsin Trip. This was a three-day educational journey. Langlade County Fair took place July 24-27, with 4-H members exhibiting animals and projects. Sabo stated she will be participating in the White Lake Schools open house. Antigo is hosting the 4-H State Dog Show September 26-28th.

- Ag Educator Scott Reuss submitted to the Committee a written report. He was unable to attend the meeting.
 - UW Extension Office Assistant Stephanie Loderbauer submitted to the Committee a written report. She was unable to attend the meeting.
 - Research Station Manager Kevin Gallenberg presented the Committee with a written report. Gallenberg stated that this season, the research station lost two research projects because of Federal funding cuts. However, the Research Station increased the number of projects from 8 to 10 in 2025, adding a soybean variety trial and fungicide trial. Gallenberg stated this year he converted the planter from dry fertilizer to liquid, funding for conversion coming from The Associated Division. The Research Station Field Day was held on 7/17/2025 and was well attended. Angel Zarda and Scott Houdek of Venture Ag Drones did a drone demonstration on spraying. Gallenberg stated the crops look good this season only had to irrigate the crops once in July. Overall, the season is looking good, and they are starting to prepare for harvest in the coming weeks. Information only.
- 7. 2025 Budget Summary for Ag & Extension:** Area Extension Director Dornfeld presented the Committee with a current 2025 Ag & Extension Budget. Dornfeld discussed line items with the Committee, discussing any line items over the project budget. Dornfeld stated that overall, the budget is in good shape with 39% spent at the end of July. Information only.
- 8. 2026 Budget for Ag & Extension:** Area Extension Director Dornfeld presented the Committee with a projected 2026 Ag & Extension Budget. Dornfeld stated the Revenue is projected to remain the same as it was in 2025. Dornfeld stated the 2026 expenditure increase mostly consists of wages/benefits and computer/telephone expenses. Dornfeld stated the Department has no control over these increases. Dornfeld stated the department is asking for an increase in office supplies, going from \$1,100 to \$1,500, and program supplies going from \$1,600 to \$2,200. The ask for these increases is to offset the increase in supply costs. The projected increase will be \$4,670. Motion by Zagar, second by Schremp, to approve the projected 2026 Ag & Extension Budget, forwarding to the Administrative/Finance Committee. All ayes, motion carried.
- 9. Area Extension Director Updates:** Area Extension Director Dornfeld stated she is working on the budget with Office Assistant Loderbauer and Interim Finance Director Ginter. Dornfeld stated she is also working on closing out the FoodWise program. Information only.
- 10. Update or Report from the County Administrator:** None.
- 11. Next meeting date:** October 6, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
- 12. Adjourn the meeting:** Motion by Zagar, second by Curler, to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes transcribed and submitted by:
Becky Rank, Deputy County Clerk