

**Bayfield County**  
**Agriculture and Extension Education Committee Meeting**  
**January 08, 2025 – 4:00 PM**  
**In-Person at the EOC Bayfield County Annex Building**  
**And Remotely via Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

Steve Sandstrom, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03

Committee members present: Steve Sandstrom, Larry Fickbohm, Fred Strand, Jeff Olsen, and Jeff Holte

Others present: Mary Pardee, Heidi Ungrodt, Tracy Henegar, Kelly Westlund, Kellie Pederson, Jason Fischbach-left at 5:00 pm, Kaylie Lukas, Lindsay Larson, Stephanie Bakker, and Theresa LaChappelle.

Others present online: Chelsea Wunnicke, WI Department of Financial Institutions.

**2. Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2024 Meeting (action item)**

***(Strand, Olsen) Motion to approve September 11, 2024 minutes. Motion approved.***

**3. Welcome New Committee Members**

Jeff Holte, District #9, is the new committee member replacing Madelaine Rekemeyer. Introductions were made.

**4. Election of Committee Vice Chair (action item)**

Sandstrom, Chair, opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

***Motion (Strand, Olsen) nominated Larry Fickbohm as Vice-Chair. Sandstrom asked twice for any other nominations for Vice Chair. None were received. Nominations were closed.***

***Motion (Strand, Olsen) To close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Fickbohm as Vice-Chair. Motion carried.***

**5. Public Comment**

No Public Comments were given.

**6. Children's Savings Accounts Update by Heidi Ungrodt and Chelsea Wunnicke, College Investment Program Finance Officer, College Savings Program, Office of Financial Capability, Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI)- (Discussion & Possible Action Item)**

Ungrodt started the discussion by explaining that the idea of a community led program for children's savings accounts for secondary education was brought to the Committee by Fickbohm about a year and a half ago. During this time, Ungrodt has been investigating the many different ways that these Children's Savings Account (CSA) programs can be handled. Research has shown that even small dollar investments can have a huge impact. After investigating the possibilities,

Ungrodt has determined that the best way to incorporate these ideas into a viable CSA program for Bayfield County is for a partnership between Extension, Bayfield County & the State of Wisconsin DFI EdVest 529-College Savings Account program. Chelsea Wunnicke and Heidi Ungrodt gave a presentation explaining the details of how the program could work as well as pros and cons of the program. (The slide deck will be available after the meeting.) Discussions. A few highlights brought forth were that the program should indicate higher education, which could include apprenticeships, technical colleges, etc., as well as four-year colleges. Also of note, friends & family members can start an account for a child, it does not have to be the parents.

***(Strand, Holte) Motion to have Ungrodt bring this program to the County Board. Motion approved.***

**7. 2024 UW-Extension Budget Update Report – Discussion**

There are still 2024 revenue and expense transactions expected to be processed.

**8. Area Extension Director Update**

- a. State and Area Updates – Nothing new to report.
- b. Staffing
  - i. **Housing Grants Outreach Assistant position** - Claire Sunsten will continue in her role for the year 2025.
  - ii. **FoodWise Educator** - Lindsay Larson, provides direct nutrition education for Ashland, Bayfield & Iron Counties, is currently being housed in the Ashland office,

**9. Out-of-State Travel Request (Action Item)**

There is not any out-of-state travel requested at this time.

**10. Extension-County Partnership Guidance Document**

Discussion on the explanation on the roles and responsibilities of the Extension educators, volunteers and the County's roles and responsibilities. This document will be added to the materials packet on Teams in the next few days.

**11. Staff Reports**

**a. FoodWise - Stephanie Bakker & Lindsay Larson**

The FoodWise team continues with their nutrition education at schools and senior meals in Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties.

Harvest of the Month continues to be part of the curriculum that they teach. The Turtle Island pilot is off to a great start at Bad River and Red Cliff.

The winter series of StrongBodies, the free virtual strength training class for adults, has just started.

**b. Ag – Emerging Crops - Jason Fischbach -No update available.**

**c. Human Development and Relationships – Tracy Henegar & Heidi Ungrodt**

**Tracy Henegar** – Henegar is continuing with parenting, aging & mental health programming. Henegar has also been asked to conduct the Teen Mental Health First Aid classes at the Bayfield School and is currently leading these classes.

**Heidi Ungrodt** – Ungrodt will be partnering with a Red Cliff Department in providing Parent-Child programming.

**The Aging Mastery Program** - Starting in February, the Aging Mastery Program will be held as In-Person classes led by both Ungrodt and Henegar. In March, both Ungrodt and Henegar will continue the Aging Mastery Program with once-a-month The Art of Aging meetings.

- d. **Office Manager - Theresa LaChappelle** – LaChappelle has recently completed laying out, and printing of the Living Well in Our Best Years newsletter. This newsletter is a joint venture with the Bayfield County Human Services Aging & Disability Unit.

- e. **4-H Programming - Kaylie Lucas**

**4-H Membership year** – Currently there are 190 youth members registered, and 55 adult leaders registered. This does not include the CANSKI (Ashland & Bayfield County) numbers, which will be coming in soon.

**Awards Dinner** – The 4-H awards dinner was held and well attended.

**Fall Forum** – This statewide meeting was attended by Bayfield County 4-H members.

**2025 Events** – Lukas is working on planning events for 2025.

It was noted by Larry Fickbohm, that the Fish Hatchery off of HWY A near Iron River has groomed cross county trails. He would like to see CANSKI branch out to the Iron River area, and this may be a great place to start.

- f. **Community Development - Kellie Pederson**

**Non-profit Organizations** – Pederson’s support for non-profit organizations continues into 2025. In 2024, Pederson created various partnerships to provide a full calendar of events for non-profit organization’s members. Workshops included training for New and Potential Board Members, Volunteers, and Donor Advised Funds vs Foundations,

**CheqBuilt**-The new Executive Director for the CheqBUILT non-profit has been hired.

- g. **Housing - Kelly Westlund**

**CheqBuilt** – Alex Nelson has been hired as the Executive Director for CheqBUILT. The goal for 2025 is to add 2 to 5 houses to CheqBUILT’s inventory, and there are some promising opportunities.

**Housing Grants Outreach Assistant** –Claire Sunsten will continue in her role in 2025. In March, she will host in-person appointments at the County Courthouse for residents to discuss available housing rehabilitation programs.

**Aurora Place** – Currently sixty people have been asked to be added to the Aurora Place informational list. Groundbreaking is expected to take place this spring, as early as April 2.

**Iron River** – County owned parcels have been identified for potential market rate rental units.

**Regional Housing Summit** – Westlund held a Regional Housing Summit in Ashland in November 2024. Local stakeholders, housing practitioners, agency partners, banking personnel, and interested builders attended. Most large developers do not want to build anything less than 40 units, which makes it difficult to get smaller sized units built in our area. Westlund is considering two follow-up events, including an Emerging Developer Boot Camp in our area and a gathering of local lenders to discuss the benefits of investing in affordable housing.

**Cornucopia** – Senior Housing has been in the discussion phase in Cornucopia. WEDC's Office of Rural Prosperity provided pre-development grant funds to study this issue. A Design Charrette was held in September, which included a meal shared with the area members of the public (over 80 people attended). The Design Team looked at the feedback collected on the proposed designs and will issue a report in the near future.

12. **Next Meeting Date** – The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 12, 2025 at 4:15 pm in the County Board Room.
13. **Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm

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