

Bayfield County
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee Meeting
July 16, 2025 – 4:00 PM
In-Person at the County Annex- EOC
And Remotely via Microsoft Teams meeting

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Due to IT issues, Aaron Bestul (IT Department) assisted with connections. Fred Strand joined online by Teams he could hear the meeting but could not be heard. Strand participated using the chat feature.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Steve Sandstrom at 4:29 pm

Committee members present: Steve Sandstrom, Jeff Holte, Jeff Olsen, Larry Fickbohm (4:47 pm)

Committee members present via Teams: Fred Strand

Others present: Mary Pardee, Stephanie Bakker, Theresa LaChappelle, Kellie Pederson, Jason Fischbach, and Heidi Ungrodt.

2. Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2025 Meeting (Action item)

(Jeff Olsen, Jeff Holte) Motion to approve May 14, 2025 minutes. Motion approved.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments

4. 2025 UW-Extension Budget Update

Pardee noted that the first half of the yearly contractual services fee has been paid. There are expected to be some potential savings in this area due to the vacancies in the Housing Educator position and the 4-H Educator position. LaChappelle noted that there may be some additional fees incurred because of the Clean Sweep program.

5. Area Extension Director Update

a. State and Area Updates

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has asked their divisions to reduce their budgets by 5%. One way to accomplish this goal is to scrutinize all hiring of all open positions and hold off with the filling of some positions.

b. Personnel Updates –

i. **4-H Educator** - Pardee heard today from Dean Karl Marting that Bayfield County 4-H Educator position was approved. The posting is expected to open within a few days. The position description has changed a bit with there being a greater on the 4-H program, it will also continue to include outdoor activities.

ii. **4-H Communications Specialist** - Kaylie Lukas, the 4-H Communications Specialist, has submitted her resignation. She will continue in her position through this year's Fair. Although the position is fully county funded at 40%, (which is part-time at 16 hours a week); the hiring and payroll are done through UW-Madison.

- iii. **FoodWise** – The FoodWise (Snap-Education) positions have been fully funded by the Federal Government. When the most recent budget bill was passed all the Snap-Ed funds were eliminated. As of September 30, 2025, the program will be done. Layoffs are expected.

UW-Madison Extension will not be able to pick up the funding to cover all of the positions that have been eliminated.

Pardee proposed hiring a County-funded Health and Well Being (HWB) Educator to continue with key programming. A thoughtful, insightful document was handed out and put into the Teams folder.

An HWB educator would allow for expanded outreach beyond the current strict income-based restrictions that must be followed by the FoodWise program.

Pardee lists out in the document where potentially the funds to pay for this position could come from (unfilled positions, being the main source).

Pardee noted that Bayfield County is the only county in Area 1 where there have been savings due to retirements and resignations. As such, there could be additional money to fund this position.

Discussions. Strand mentioned that the Executive Committee has discussed using some undesignated county funds towards replacing some of the Federal Funding that has been lost. Other possible funding partners for an HWB Educator that were discussed were the schools, the Red Cliff Tribe, and the Bayfield County Health Department.

6. **2025 Budget Amendments - Discussion and Possible Action**

a. **Care Cooperative Project**

Information on the Care Cooperative start-up, grant funding and the 2025 Budget amendment were included in the materials packet. Discussions. Noted that a front-page article on the Care Cooperative project was in the current issue of the Bottom-Line News.

(Fickbohm, Holte) Motion to approve of the Care Cooperative project, the grant funding and for the budget amendment to be presented to the County Board for approval. Motion carried.

7. **Children's Savings Accounts Update**

In May, a resolution was presented to the County Board in support of the Children's Savings Account initiative. Northern State Bank has committed \$7,500 in startup funding for this two-year pilot program. If the initial funds are fully utilized before the end of the pilot period, the County will provide an additional \$7,500 in support.

The Children's Savings Account Advisory Council met to review the program charter and form work groups.

8. **Clean Sweep**

The Household Hazardous Waste collection event will be held on July 31, 2025. LaChappelle asked for volunteers. Holte, and Olsen volunteered to work from Noon – 6 pm. Sandstrom & Ungrodt will assist as their time permits.

Jeff Hole left the meeting at 5:10 pm

9. 2026 UW-Extension Budget Discussion – Discussion and Possible Action Item

Discussion on storage needs and planning. Sandstrom and Fickbohm agreed to check out the VFW buildings.

Another meeting to discuss the budget in detail will be held at a later date.

Jason Fischbach left the meeting at 5:15 pm.

Fred Strand left the meeting at 5:18 pm.

10. Staff Reports

a. Kellie Pederson, Community Development

- i. **Care Cooperative** - updates given earlier.
- ii. **CheqBUILT**- Exploring new funding options with WHEDA

b. Heidi Ungrodt, Human Development & Relationships

- i. **Kindergarten Transitions** – Focuses on emotional readiness.
- ii. **Circle of Security** – This is a new program that focuses on secure parent-child relationships and how they can be supported and strengthened. This program will be offered virtually in the fall and then in-person classes will be looked at.
- iii. **Strengthening Families Workshops** – Ungrodt is offering this program through the Spark initiative in Ashland. It is currently in week 2 of 8 and is open to residents of both Ashland and Bayfield Counties. Sessions are held in person.

c. Stephanie Bakker, FoodWise

- i. **Foodwise Transitioning** – Bakker has been working with her team on transitioning the ending of this 30-year program. Programming will continue at least until the end of September.
- ii. **Strong Bodies** – This program will continue through November. However, it may need to transition over to the classes led by State-wide HWB educators.
- iii. **Turtle Island's Health and Wellness** – Turtle Island packets have been given to the Red Cliff Early Childhood Center. The kids and staff look forward to receiving these. Bakker has had requests for more information about this program from other partners.

11. Next Meeting Dates

A Budget meeting, is scheduled for August 13, at 9 am in the EOC

A regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 10, 2025 at 4:15 pm in the EOC.

12. Adjourn 5:41 pm.

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