

Bayfield County
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee Meeting
November 12, 2025 – 4:00 PM
In-Person at the County Annex- EOC
And Remotely via Microsoft Teams meeting

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:02 PM by Chair Steve Sandstrom.

Committee Members Present: Jeff Holte, Jeff Olsen, Steve Sandstrom, and Fred Strand

Committee Members Absent: Larry Fickbohm

Others Present: Mary Pardee, Stephani Bakker, Clair Emmons, Jason Fischback, Theresa LaChappelle, Kellie Pederson, Heidi Ungrodt, and Jan Lee (County Board Member).

2. Welcome & Introductions

Clair Emmons introduced as the new 4-H Program Educator. Attendees also introduced themselves.

3. Approval of July 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

(Holte, Olsen) Approval of July 16, 2025 minutes. Motion approved.

4. Approval of August 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

(Sandstrom, Olsen) Approval of the August 13, 2025 meeting. Motion approved.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. UW-Extension Updates

a. Area Extension Director Updates:

Ashland County: Hiring process is underway for new 4-H Educator.

Statewide AED Changes: A few of the Southern counties will see changes in oversight structure with the combining of additional counties to current areas.

Integrated Specialists: In another way to pursue additional budget cuts, some integrated specialist positions are being cut; the focus is shifting to retention of local educators.

Personnel Updates:

FoodWise: Lindsay Larson was laid off as a FoodWise Educator as of October 1st. Deb Leonard will be laid off as FoodWise Educator as of December 1st.

Stephanie Bakker will continue in her FoodWise supervisory role until December and will work with Tribal audiences through June 30th

HWB Educator: Funding has been secured for an 80% HWB Educator in 2026 via unused 2025 funds and an MCH grant.

Housing Educator: Planning is underway for a 50% Housing Educator position to start in January. Pardee and Peterson will look at the possibility of potentially combining this position with the part-time CheqBuilt Director position

7. Staff Reports

a. Emerging Crops, Jason Fischbach:

Carbon Cooperative - Fischbach discussed the planning that is under way for a Community Carbon Cooperative.

Hazelnuts - The First Farm project in the business park has produced its first crop of hazelnuts. The Hazelnut processor in Ashland (Northland College Food Center) is still the only hazelnut processor in the Midwest. Hauser's Superior View (Bayfield) is acting as the nursery for the new varieties of hazelnuts being grown.

Seedless Table Grapes - Tropic Glow table grapes, one of the trial plants being grown in Bayfield, has had great reviews.

b. Community Development, Kellie Pederson

Caregiver's Cooperative - In the process of hiring for the administrator's position. This will be a Bayfield County temporary part-time position.

CheqBuilt - The Executive Director position is currently vacant. In the interim, Pederson is providing support with the associated responsibilities.

Strategic Planning - Pederson has/is providing strategic planning sessions for four local organizations: including the Iron River Library, and the Bayfield County Health Department.

c. Human Development & Relationships, Tracy Henegar

Youth Wellness Leadership Summit - Ungrodt reported that Henegar could not attend the committee meeting tonight, as she is involved with the third annual Youth Wellness Leadership Summit. Local schools select youth to attend this summit. The youth then bring back what they have learned to their classmates.

d. **Human Development & Relationships, Heidi Ungrodt:**

Aging Mastery Program (AMP) - AMP has been scheduled to take place in February and March at the Iron River Library. This program reaches out to the older citizens in the county, providing them with fellowship and educational resources on facing the many different aspects of aging well.

The Art of Aging - This program is an off shoot of the AMP program. It consists of sessions that meet on the first Friday of each month for coffee and conversations related to aging well.

Saving Early for Educational Dreams (SEED) - The SEED advisory council has been meeting each month to discuss progress. At its last meeting, the advisory council proposed changing the enrollment start date to January 1, 2025. Ungrodt will discuss with the Administrator the process to change the start date. Ungrodt has reached out to the Iron River Library to inquire if they would like to become a SEED/Edvest hub that would provide technical assistance for those who would like to participate in the program.

e. **Office Manager, Theresa LaChappelle:**

4-H - LaChappelle managed the 4-H end-of-year processes, supported Fall Fest/the awards banquet, and answered enrollment questions before the new educator was hired. She now assists the new educator with various aspects of her role and responds to questions as they arise.

Living Well Newsletter - LaChappelle completed the layout and editing of the newsletter and plans to finish printing and distribution before Thanksgiving.

f. **FoodWise, Stephanie Bakker:**

StrongBodies - The local StrongBodies virtual program will be ending this month. The plan going forward is to ensure that participants will be able to access and participate in the statewide virtual classes.

Turtle Island Tales - Bakker was included in a Turtle Island Tales film project featuring wild rice harvesting. She is exploring options to sustain this well-received project as the FoodWise program ends.

WI Local Food Day - The first Wisconsin Local Food Day is set for Nov 13th.

g. **4-H Program, Clair Emmons:**

Onboarding - Emmons is actively participating in UW-Madison Extension 4-H onboarding and working through the required tasks to complete the process.

CANSKI – She met with the CANSKI board, discussed various aspects of the club, and scheduled another meeting to finalize plans for the upcoming season.

Superior Days – Emmons has been asked to recruit a youth contingency to participate in the 2026 Superior Days and will attend the next planning meeting to gain insight into the event.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 14, 2026 at 4:00 PM in the EOC and via teams.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 PM.

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