

**Bayfield County
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee Meeting
March 11, 2026 – 4:00 PM
In-Person at the EOC Bayfield County Annex Building
And Remotely via Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair **Steve Sandstrom** called the meeting to order at **4:02 PM**.

- **Committee Members Present:**

- *In-Person:* Jeff Olsen, Fred, Steve Sandstrom, Larry Fickbohm

- **Committee Members Absent:**

- Jeff Holte

- **Others Present:**

- Mary Pardee, Theresa LaChappelle, Clair Emmons, Heidi Ungrodt, Kellie Pederson and Tracy Henegar via Teams

2. Approval of January 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes

(Jeff Olsen, Fred Strand) Approval of January 14, 2026 minutes. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

4. 2025 UW-Extension Budget Update

Discussion on 2025 budget. Savings from unused contractual services carried over to the 2026 budget.

5. 2025 UW-Extension Budget Update

Discussion on 2026 budget.

6. Area Extension Director Updates

a. State and Area Updates

- **ESP Meritorious Support Service Award** – Theresa Lachappelle has been chosen to receive the ESP Wisconsin Chapter Meritorious Support Service Award. She will receive this at the UW-Extension JCEP conference in Eau Claire on April 9, 2026.
- **Area 1 Meeting** – The Area 1 meeting will be held on April 30, 2026 at the NGLVC. Luncheon invitations will be sent to committee members.
- **Civil Rights Non/Discrimination** – Compliance recommendations will be forthcoming from the University. Further clarification and use of the word “partner” and “partnership” will be part of these recommendations.

b. Staffing Updates

- **Housing Educator** – This position has been posted. One interview has taken place, the process has been paused as potential conflicts are researched.
- **Superior Adventures Leader/Summer Assistant** – Applications are being taken until March 15, 2026.
- **Caregiver Cooperative** – Maren Zinski has been hired as the lead on this program. Her position is totally funded through a grant.
- **Ag Research Assistant** – Grace Poletti has been hired as Fischbach's Research Assistant. Hazelnut research is still ongoing at the Huling Rice Center. The HR Center is currently being rented for this use on a month-to-month lease.

7. Staff Reports

a. Clair Emmons – 4-H Program Educator

- **4-H Leaders Association meetings** – Emmons has been attending the Leaders' Assoc. meetings. The next one will be on March 16, 2026
- **4-H Club meetings** – Emmons attended the Washburn Friendly Valley 4-H Club meeting in March. She plans on attending each of the 4-H Clubs' meetings at least once this year.
- **Bayfield Winter Camp** – Stephanie Bakker and Clair Emmons both attended the Bayfield Winter Camp. They shared activities with the youth and adults that attended. This was a great way to reintroduce themselves to the community in their new roles.
- **4-H CANSKI:** Middle School youth are still skiing. The Elementary youth program has concluded. They met twice a week, once at the MMC trails and once at the Mt Ashwabay trails. Attendance varied between 20–30 participants at each place.
- **4-H Project Showcase** – The Project Showcase (formerly known as the Cultural Arts Festival) is scheduled for April 18 at the Norther Great Lakes Visitors Center. All area youth are invited to participate. There will also be three Bayfield County Pre-Fair Events held at this time: Demonstration Contest, Clothing Revue and Foods Revue. These Pre-Fair events are only open to Bayfield County youth.
- **4-H Camp** – 4-H Camp is scheduled for June 27–29, 2026 at Crosswoods. This will once again be a shared camp event with Ashland County. Dave Ullman, Ashland County 4-H Program Educator is working with Clair Emmons on details. They are currently seeking Camp Counselors for the event. Youth in grades 9-12, do not have to belong to 4-H.
 - **Cloverbud Day Camp (K-2)** – Emmons and Ullman are discussing holding a joint Cloverbud Day Camp this summer.
 - **Local School Support** – Emmons has been contacted by some of the local 5th grade teachers to provide their classes with paddling/leadership programming.
- **Program Totals:** Currently there are 5 active clubs, with a total of 212 youths and 44 volunteers enrolled.
- **Youth Development Conference** – Emmons recently attended the Positive Youth Development- All Institute Conference in February.

b. Tracy Henegar – Human Development and Relationships

- **Trauma Informed Caregiver Program** - Henegar discussed the Trauma Informed Caregiver Program. This program is a virtual class series that brings together birth parents, foster parents and family-serving professionals to learn about the effects of trauma on the developing brains and bodies of children and explore ways to promote support and healing.
- Henegar, Ungrodt and another UW-Extension colleague have completed comprehensive revised curriculum, and the revamped program now runs 6 sessions, down from the original 8 sessions. They piloted the 6-session version available throughout the state in January/February with 24 participants. One of the positives that was signaled out for praise was maintaining a Google site with class resources available for participants. The updated program will be presented for review at a national Trauma Informed Caregivers Conference.

d. Heidi Ungrodt – Human Development and Relationships

- **SEED Program:** Currently there are 10 participants who have enrolled, two are also enrolled in WIC. Three months after a participant is signed up a survey will be sent to the account owners. Edvest will provide an additional monetary incentive for surveys completed - \$25 for online surveys and \$50 for a one-on-one conversation.
 - Larry Fickbohm was interviewed on WI Public Radio about the SEED program. We received three signups shortly after this.
- **Neighborhood Forest – Giving trees to children** - Edvest is sponsoring the Neighborhood Forest program in Bayfield County. They have partnered with the Bayfield County Libraries to encourage children to plant trees, care for nature and to help create greener, healthier neighborhoods. Jeff Holte has been instrumental in putting this partnership together. Programs will happen at the area libraries during the week of Earth Day. Ungrodt will be at the Washburn & Red Cliff libraries and will have SEED, Edvest and other financial information available to parents and youth.
- **Aging Mastery Program** - This In-Person series will be presented at the Iron River Library, Tuesdays 10:00 am to Noon, beginning April 7th and running through May 26th.

e. Theresa LaChappelle – Office Manager

- **Aging Mastery Program** - Flyers for the Aging Mastery Program and the Art of Aging Workshops sent out to mailing list.
- **Living Well Newsletter** - Gathering articles and creating layout for the newsletter. Getting close to being completed. Should be mailed out the first week of April.
- **Annual Report** - All staff are working on creating and sending me their reports.
- **Clean Sweep-Household Hazardous Waste Event** - The Clean Sweep-HHW event has been set for Thursday, July 23, 2026 from 2 pm to 6 pm at the Bayfield County Fair

Grounds in Iron River. Please mark your calendars and plan to help out as volunteers will be needed again this year.

f. Kellie Pederson – Economic Development

- **Be On Board:** A two-session training workshop designed for board members who want to help their organizations operate at their best. Workshops will be held April 21 & 28 from 9:15 am to Noon at the NGLVC.
- **CheqBUILT project:** Pederson has been involved with recruitment for a director and a financial education consultant search. The four available county-owned acres by the Aurora Place division is being considered for possible construction of six to eight 2-to-3-bedroom Crossover Modern (CrossMod) homes to be put into the CheqBUILT community land trust. Habitat for Humanity is interested in partnering with CheqBUILT to become the developer of these homes. Talks are ongoing.
- **Caregiver Cooperative:** Pederson and Zinski will be holding some interviews in the near future. for the founding members of the Steering Committee/Owners. These committee members will receive a stipend paid from the Caregiver Cooperative grant

8. Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for **May 13, 2026 at 4:00 PM**, EOC and via Teams.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **5:18 PM**.

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