



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARQUETTE COUNTY

Division of Extension-Marquette County
Marquette County Service Center
480 Underwood Ave. Rm. 136
Montello, WI 53949

Phone 608-297-3141
Dial 711 for Wisconsin Relay
<https://marquette.extension.wisc.edu/>

Pat Wagner, Area Director
Christa Van Treeck, 4-H Youth Dev. Educator
Hannah Zellmer, HDR Educator
Laci Monroe, Food Wise Coordinator
Vacant, Regional Crops Educator
Olivia Zuehls, AmeriCorps Member
April Hughes, Support Staff

Minutes of the Marquette County Extension Education Committee Tuesday, August 19, 2025 – County Board Room, Montello

Let the record show that Committee Members Present were: John Bennett, Dennis Fenner, and Ken Borzick. Also in attendance were Ron Barger, Administrator, and Jacob Hansen, IT Department.

Staff Present: Christa VanTreeck, Hannah Zellmer, Laci Monroe, Olivia Zuehls, Pat Wagner.

Call Meeting to Order- Meeting was called to order by Fenner at 10:00 a.m. Meeting is being recorded on WebEX.

Approve Agenda- motion by John Bennett with a second by Ken Borzick to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approve June Minutes- no discussion—motion to approve the minutes by John Bennett and second by Ken Borzick. Motion carried to approve June minutes as published.

Citizens' Input- none

Educator Reports: Written reports submitted and attached to the agenda by Hannah Zellmer, Human Development and Relationships Educator; Christa VanTreeck, 4-H Youth Development Educator; and Laci Monroe, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator. This is AmeriCorps Member, Olivia Zuehls, last meeting with EEC. Thank you to Olivia for all of her work this summer. This is also Laci Monroe's last meeting with EEC. Thank you to Laci for all of her work during the past 2 years. Both will be missed! **Educator written reports were put on file.**

Area Extension Director Update - Pat Wagner shared an update on Division of Extension, referencing the Dean of Extension's recent presentation at the Wisconsin Counties Association virtual meeting, August 18. Extension will address a 5% reduction as are all divisions at UW Madison; Federal Snap-Ed funds were cut and will sunset on September 30, 2025 –result FoodWise programming will end; Covering WI funding was cut from over \$1 million down to \$340,000. AmeriCorps Funding was re-instated earlier and Marquette Co. Extension recruiting a part time member. She also thanked Zuehls and Monroe for their service as part of the Marquette Co. Extension team.

Report on July 9, 2025 Extension Community Needs Forum – The report, a copy was attached to the agenda, was reviewed and discussed. The report will be shared with all who participated in the community needs forum. Needs identified were consistent with current program direction. Community partners also had the opportunity to connect and create possible collaborations. Data was also shared with Allysan Brunette for inclusion in the county's strategic planning process.

Vacant Regional Agriculture Educator Position – findings of the community needs forum related to the agriculture needs of the county were reviewed and discussed. Heidi Johnson, UW Madison Division of Extension Agriculture Institute Director, joined the meeting virtually and shared options for staffing in Marquette Co. based on available FTEs. She answered questions of committee members. Wagner shared that she had prepared a budget proposal with and without the .25 FTE regional agriculture educator position. Discussion completed.

Proposed 2026 Budget – Wagner reviewed the proposed budgets with the committee. Barger clarified tax levy implications of the proposed budgets – one with and one without the .25 FTE regional agriculture educator. Discussion. Motion by John Bennett and second by Dennis Fenner to approve budget with regional crops educator position included as presented and send it on to Executive and Finance committee. Motion carried.

Review vouchers completed.

Report of Extension Education Committee Members

a. Reports of official meetings held in the prior month

- i. Fair Committee** - John Bennett gave a report on the 2025 Fair. Attendance was down slightly with lower revenue. Youth Meat Animal Auction realized record prices for youth participants. The Fair Board has not set 2026 dates as a carnival is not secured (the previous carnival company has closed due to retirement). Fenner asked Bennett and Barger about the future of fairgrounds improvements. All is awaiting funds. Building and Grounds Director continues to look for funding.
- ii. Inter-County Coordinating Committee (ICC)** – Borzick shared that 8.18.2025 meeting included open discussion and learning amongst representatives from the nine counties involved.
- iii. Upcoming Events/Issues (for discussion only)** - none
- iv. Next Meeting Date** - the next meeting will be October 14, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Adjourn-Fenner declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Wagner