

EXTENSION-LCC COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Room 2151

Members present: Kirsten Huth, Jim Gores, Randy Cook, Fran Langman, Gary Nelson and Audrey Kusilek. Staff present: Tyler Gruetzmacher, Justin Everson, Pat Brown, Bronson Thalacker, Dave Gifford, Jeff French, Lori Baltrusis, Tawanga Zakeyu and Becky Melton, .

Others present: David Ruid- USDA Absent: Jamie McCready

Cook called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and Melton confirmed proper posting of the meeting. No public comment was received.

Motion: (Kusilek/Gores) to approve the agenda; carried. **Motion: (Gores/Langman)** to approve the minutes of December 2, 2025 meeting; carried.

Announcements: Gruetzmacher introduced Melton as new Administrative Assistant.

Edit list: no questions.

Item #5. David Ruid, USDA APHIS, presented wildlife damage claims information for committee review. After committee questions, **Motion: (Nelson/Gores)** to approve claims; carried.

Item #6. Brown recapped the recent meeting of the Barron County Lakes Partnership, which brought together lake associations, lake districts and the county to discuss what that partnership will entail. Brown gave an update of the Clean Boats & Clean Water Grant along with the Native Plant Sale.

Item #7, Item #10 and Item #11. Gruetzmacher, Everson and Thalacker gave a presentation of the 2025 SWCD in review and 2026 projects. Gruetzmacher reviewed cover crop, manure storage closures and DATCP SWRM funded projects. Everson gave an update on the Farmland Preservation Program, Nutrient Management Assistance and the Tree Program. Thalacker reviewed the NR 135 Program, highlighting Sand & Gravel and Industrial Sand reclamation projects that were completed. Gruetzmacher reviewed upcoming training and conferences for staff. An invitation was extended to committee members for the Red Cedar Watershed Conference, West Central Tour in Clark County and the Wisconsin Land +Water LCC Training in June.

Item #8. UWEX Baltrusis reviewed 2025 & 2026 work plans and introduced new staff, Tawonga Zakeyu, Diversified Vegetables and Emerging Crops Educator. Her role will be to educate and provide local farmers and agricultural professionals regarding new research, education materials that improve efficiency and profitability of production.

Item #9. Gifford gave an update on Staffing Allocations for Barron County.

Item # 12. Certificate of Compliance was presented for approval. **Motion: (Kusilek/Nelson)** to approved the certificates; carried.

Item #13. Staff Reports –

NRCS – Richter spoke of the benefits of the partnership with Barron County.

FSA – Huth gave update.

Executive Committee – French gave update on the Public Safety Answering Point Grant.

Fair Board – N/A.

Next meeting date: March 3, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Future agenda items:

Motion: (Huth/Gores) to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m.; carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Melton, Administrative Assistant Land Services

Minutes are not official until approved by the Extension/LCC Committee at the next meeting.