

EXTENSION-LCC COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, July 7, 10:30 a.m.

Room 2106

Members present: Kirsten Huth, Jim Gores, Randy Cook, Fran Langman, Carsten Ellison, Gary Nelson and Audrey Kusilek.

Staff present: Tyler Gruetzmacher Justin Everson, Dave Gifford, Jeff French, Lori Baltrusis, Becky Melton, Ben Cole and Bronson Thalacker.

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

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: (Kusilek/Nelson) to approve the agenda; carried.

Motion: (Elliston/Gores) to approve the minutes of 04/07/2026 meeting; carried.

Announcements: French announced his recommendation of Ben Cole for the Zoning Administrator position, which will be presented to the County Board.

Edit list: No questions

True Wellness Presentation

Natasha Ward gave a presentation on behalf of True Wellness, sharing that the organization's mission is to build health and wellness into the flow of community life. Partnering with the Blue Zones organization and Barron County Extension.

Land Conservation Committee (LCC) Chapter 92 & Training Review

Gruetzmacher gave a presentation on the Chapter 92 rules governing land conservation and outlined the core purpose of the committee. This was followed by a review of the recent LCC training sessions held in Hayward and Black River Falls.

Wisconsin Land + Water Board Representative Appointment

Gruetzmacher discussed the importance of having an LCC member serve on the Wisconsin Land + Water Board of Directors.

Motion (Kusilek/Ellison): To appoint Randy Cook as the representative to the Board of Directors; carried.

NR 151 Statewide Survey Project Update

Thalacker and Gruetzmacher presented an update on the NR 151 statewide survey project. Out of 1,200 survey sites statewide, 19 are located within Barron County.

West Central Clark County Tour Overview

Gruetzmacher and Thalacker provided an overview of the West Central Clark County tour. While visiting several area farms, they noted how these operations have diversified to maximize earning potential while successfully maintaining robust land conservation practices.

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

Groundwater Center Proposal Discussion

Gruetzmacher reviewed three drafted proposals for groundwater studies in Barron County, followed by discussion and questions from staff and committee members.

Motion (Langman/Kusilek): To proceed with the 5-year testing program plan, with a recommendation to add a budget line item for Option #1; carried.

Farmland Preservation Annual Review

Everson and Gruetzmacher reviewed the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Farmland Preservation annual program review.

Certificate of Compliance: Sarah A. York

A Certificate of Compliance for Sarah A. York was presented for approval.

Motion (Kusilek/Gores): To approve the certificate; carried.

Note: Gores exited the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Staff & Committee Reports

- **UWEX:** Baltrusis reiterated her excitement regarding the True Wellness presentation, emphasizing what a significant opportunity this program represents for Barron County.
- **NRCS:** No report.
- **FSA:** Huth reviewed upcoming deadline dates for farmers to report their information for various federal programs.
- **Executive Committee:** French provided a brief overview of the upcoming committee agenda.
- **Fair Board:** An update was provided regarding the upcoming county fair.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

Adjournment

Motion: By unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Melton

Administrative Secretary, Land Services