

WCO Board of Directors Meeting

Heim Brothers Custom, E3731 Rockledge Rd, Algoma, WI 54201

Thursday, July 17, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

Roll call: John Osterhaus, Randy Clark, Exec Director - Maria Woldt, Jeremy Heim, Bruce Dannenberg, Pat Johnson, Steve Pesik, Charlie Schultz. **On the phone:** Joseph Sanford, Brian Luck, Isaac Lemmenes
Guests: Kevin Erb, Jerry Clark

Absent: None

Call to Order and Quorum Confirmation

President Osterhaus called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Today's Agenda

A motion was made by Randy and seconded by Jeremy to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried and the agenda was approved.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Jeremy and seconded by Steve to approve the minutes from the February 17 and February 19 meetings held in Wisconsin Dells. The motion carried and the minutes from Feb. 17 and 19 were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Woldt/Schultz

Maria Woldt presented the financial report covering February through July for WCO and PNAAW. A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Jake to approve the treasurer's report. The motion carried and the treasurer's report was approved.

President's Comments – Osterhaus

President Osterhaus welcomed attendees, and thanked Jeremy Heim for hosting. He then invited each board member to provide updates. Any special guests present were also introduced at this time.

Executive Director / Administrative Report – Woldt

Executive Director Woldt gave an update on membership and sponsorship developments. Plans for upcoming auction fundraisers, potentially to be held in December and/or March, were discussed. Updates on BSTP sponsorship and the status of the PNAAW merger were also shared.

There are 147 WCO members, which is up 4 compared to last year, and approaching our record high years of 2018/2019/2020. A list of non-renewals was distributed so that board members could contact anyone that they know. Sponsorship payment was also discussed. This year all but one sponsor renewed, and our efforts came together nicely. Midwest Machinery Co. was our outstanding sponsor, and they were contacted multiple times and chose not to renew.

WCO will again host a fundraising auction with Hansen Auction Group late this fall. WCO will receive 1% of the buyer's fee. The group discussed having an auction in December to try to capture people looking to purchase at the end of the year. An update on the consignment dates will be provided once confirmed.

Maria also provided an update on the PNAAW merger and completed tasks since March. Twenty-two PNAAW members have been uploaded into the WCO systems and added to the website. A money market account was opened at BankFirst and the balance of the PNAAW accounts was deposited. The MOU agreement was executed successfully, and Maria/the boards met with attorney Troy Schneider to move the process forward. Maria met with Kevin Erb and Jerome Clark from UW Division of Extension to talk about educational needs for manure haulers and how we might partner enhance the work that they are doing and drive attendance to the Feb. Symposium event.

Scholarship Committee Report – Sanford/Woldt

Joe Sanford provided an update on the 2025 scholarship process, including the final selection results. Details about the number of applications received and recipients were reviewed. There was discussion about how many scholarships to give out. There was a clear break in the review data at 3 candidates, and to give a fourth, we would need to have the next group of applications re-reviewed as there was a 3–4-way tie on who would be #4. For this reason, the board chose to move forward on three candidates. There were 10 candidates. Randy made a motion to keep the scholarships to three for 2026, Dana seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed. Maria will contact the candidates.

Manure Education Discussion – Erb and All

A discussion was held on current manure education offerings provided by UW Extension. The group explored WCO's role in enhancing manure education and outreach, particularly through the "Manure track" at the upcoming Symposium. Kevin and Jerry offered to assist with topic selection and efforts to boost attendance. Kevin had several topics to present to the group, and discussion was had. Jerry will moderate the manure track room. Maria will work with Kevin and Jerry to secure content for the manure track.

Recruitment and Nomination Committee – Heim/Woldt

Heim and Woldt reviewed board member eligibility for second terms. The following individuals are eligible for second terms: Osterhaus (at-large), Heim (North region), and Clark (Corporate). The board openings will be publicized as normal via website, email, and newsletter.

Special Projects Committee – Woldt

Woldt shared final analysis from the member survey. Updates on the Dudenhoeffer Agricultural Technology Acumen data project were discussed. The new formatting improvements and mailed physical copies were discussed. Additional thoughts were exchanged on UW Extension's custom rate survey and Maria will investigate the results from that survey and how they compare to the WCO survey.

Safety and Regulations Committee – Woldt/All

General policy and budget updates were provided. The group is interested in how SB 323 plays out and more information will be provided as it becomes available. A draft schedule for the April 9 Safety Event was presented for review and input. The group discussed potential speakers, sessions to add, and some examples of content that can be shared during the event, such as safety videos from USCHI. Maria will work on the schedule, speakers and other logistics. The draft sponsorship program was shared and was given positive feedback. Sponsors will be contacted in the fall.

Education and Conference Committee – Osterhaus/Woldt

Osterhaus and Woldt provided updates on planning for the 2026 conference. Topics were presented that were the favorites of the education committee. The group discussed potential session topics and speaker recruitment strategies. Maria will begin contacting speakers in Aug./September. It often takes a few months to fill all slots and October is the deadline for the complete list of topics to the folks at MFA. We are still in need of two keynote speakers, Maria will collaborate with MFA to fill these slots.

Old Business

No old business was presented or discussed.

New Business

No new business was brought forward.

Adjournment

Randy moved to adjourn. Joe seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 4 at Meyer Manufacturing, Dorchester, WI.