



**MANITOBA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (MWI)
Board Meeting Agenda**

May 20th, 2026 at 9am

PRESENT:

Marge Knutson
Debra Barrett
Mallory Makinson
Vacant
Michele Gurman
Maren Mueller
Liz Chongva
Liz Chongva
Thelma Blahey
Gisela Nolting
Ann Mandziuk

President
Past President
Office Administrator
MB Government Appointed Member
MB Government Appointed Member
Eastern Regional Rep
Southwest Regional Rep
Northern Regional Rep
MB Ag Representative
Winnipeg-Interlake Regional Rep
Home Ec. Rep

Call to Order 9:01 a.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: Moved by Michele Gurman that the agenda be adopted as circulated.
Seconded by Ann Mandziuk. **CARRIED**

2. Approval of Minutes for March 18th, 2026

Motion: Moved by Michele Gurman that the minutes from the Board Meeting held March 18th, 2026, be approved as circulated. Seconded by Debra Barrett. **CARRIED**

3. Acceptance of the Financial Reports

Motion: Moved by Ann Mandziuk that the financial reports for March 2026 and April 2026 be accepted as circulated. Seconded by Debra Barrett. **CARRIED**

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. OA Report

Reviewed the OA Report and a question regarding the number of newsletters was asked. We currently print and mail out 17 newsletters in color.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Resolution on Veterinary Services for Big Animals (emergency resolution?)

DISCUSSION: To have emergency service available for large animals in rural areas. Could a government intervention regarding emergency veterinary services in rural areas help this situation.

ACTION: **Thelma** to send Marge contact information regarding who to send a “letter of concern” to for more information and assistance in this matter.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Registering with Manitoba Lotteries

Due to the fact that MWI does not require money to fund any projects at this time, we will table the idea of registering with Manitoba Lotteries for a license until we have a project in mind.

7.2 Cost estimate from talbot Agency

Talbot and Associates Accounting firm were not willing to take us on as a customer to “Review” our MWI books.

ACTION: **Mallory** will check with Sensus regarding the cost of a “Review” as opposed to an “Audit”.

7.3 Purchasing a projector and screen for zoom and future AGM meetings

The quotes from Amazon for the purchase of a projector and screen were discussed and the reasons to have these items for MWI. It was decided that more research was needed and possibly purchasing a laptop compatible with the projector might be an option since many spaces have TV screens available to use for presentations.

DISCUSSION: MWI has funds available to purchase a projector and laptop if we decide this is the best solution.

ACTION: **Mallory** will check further options of laptops and projectors.

ACTION: **Marge** will also check out more information regarding what’s the best options.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Executive – Debra Barrett

The Executive met in late March to conduct an employee appraisal, to approve an employee salary increment, which resulted in an updating and finalization of the employment contract for 2026.

The Executive committee will need to determine who will sit on the committee for 2026/2027.

Debra will continue to finalize the hand off of the Gimli Saga history book to the Gimli Museum. The previous contact person for the Gimli Museum died (Elva S.) therefore the process is having to start anew.

8.2 AGM 2026 and MWI Women's Day – Debra Barrett

The overview of the AGM was discussed, and highlights of all presentations were noted. Overall, the AGM was very well received and suggestions for next year discussed briefly.

8.3 Marketing & Promotion – Ann Mandziuk

DISCUSSION: Our statistics remain very good in Facebook, Instagram and Website counts. Mallory will continue to tabulate our stats on Facebook and other social media to educate our members.

Ann noted that at the ACWW conference there was delegates there from Australia and others that may start following our MWI due to the convention!

Ann has been working with the "Tech Connect" program through the 55+ Programs. The local school teaches seniors new skills and helps them develop methods of creating newsletters and such. Since Microsoft has been causing her trouble, Ann will explore using CANVA in future for MWI newsletters.

The AGM ideas submitted on the "post it" notes were very useful and gave some good ideas.

8.4 Bylaw & Policy – Debra Barrett

The Committee will review the Bylaw & Policy wording and update it in September 2026. Marge and Thelma have said they will join the committee.

8.5 Resolutions – Debra Barrett

Diane MacDonald will be new Chairperson with new committee for 2026/27.

8.6 Scholarship – Gisela Nolting

There were 18 applications received for our scholarships. There are 2 scholarships of \$1500 to be awarded. Kyle from Red River Exhibition will contact the schools that submitted applications to get references from the students that have applied.

8.7 Finance – Marge Knutson

No further information was required.

8.8 International Peace Gardens – Audrey Clark

ACTION: Ann will look into the articles written in the Boissevain Recorder and decide if it should be added into our MWI newsletter.

8.9 FWIC – Debra Barrett

No further information was needed or required.

8.10 MB Agriculture – Thelma Blahey

For those of you did not sign up, you can receive a weekly crop report.

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/seasonal-reports/crop-report/index.html>

The Agri-Career Quest is happening May 20 – 23rd. Senior 4-H members will be visiting farms and businesses to look at career options. Stops include businesses in Hamiota, Russell, Swan River, The Pas, Dauphin and Rapid City.

Our colleague Tracey Drabek-Zirk retired from Manitoba Agriculture on April 17th, 2026. Tracey had worked previously with MWI in the Eastern region of the province.

8.11 Agriculture & Rural Development – Gisela Nolting

Gisela wanted to illustrate the need for our Veterinary Services letter by relaying her story regarding getting an appointment for her pet.

AG in the classroom presentation on April 16th revealed that there are 134 organizations involved in bringing Agriculture Awareness to students in Manitoba schools. Over 8300 students learned about planting seeds and other information. Gisela suggested an idea to create a “Booklet” featuring stories of Farming Women in Manitoba, since 2026 is the International Year of the Farmer Woman.

Could MWI compile the stories of “Manitoba Farmer Women” in a booklet of some sort or some other method of communication to tell their stories.

8.12 Nomination – Liz Chongva

Karen Mueller was elected as the Eastern Region Rep and is looking for information on the members and locals in the Eastern Region. She will contact Mallory to find out more information.

There are some members who might be interested in President Elect. Perhaps attending one of our Board Meetings might help them decide.

8.13 Strategic Plan – Debra Barrett

Changes might need to be considered with no locals in the Western Region. A review in September will review and evaluate. Thelma will act as a “resource”.

8.14 Made in Manitoba Project – Michelle Gurman

No communication has been sent in regarding “Acts of Kindness”. Send Mallory any photos or stories for her to post on social networks, or for newsletter.

8.15 Restructuring Committee – Debra Barrett

A committee will be brought forward in September 2026. Regions changing will need to be voted on at 2027 AGM.

8.16 ACWW – Gisela Nolting

The Convention was held in Ottawa with 350 people worldwide attending. There were 7 members attending from Manitoba. Resolutions were discussed. A Gala Dinner

was held in a Native Themed Room. The next ACWW convention will be in Killarney Ireland in 2029.

9. In-Camera Session

No discussion.

Next Board Meeting Date: September 16th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn moved by Michele Gurman. Meeting adjourned by Marge Knutson at 10:38 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS IN MINUTES:

ACTION: **Thelma** to send Marge contact information regarding who to send a “letter of concern” to for more information and assistance in this matter.

ACTION: **Mallory** will check with Sensus regarding the cost of a “Review” as opposed to an “Audit”.

ACTION: **Mallory** will check further options of laptops and projectors.

ACTION: **Marge** will also check out more information regarding what’s the best options.

ACTION: **Ann** will look into the articles written in the Boissevain Recorder and decide if it should be added into our MWI newsletter.