



MARATHON COUNTY RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Location: Courthouse Assembly Room, B-105, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI or WebEx

Committee Members: Kurt Gibbs (Temporary Chair), David Baker, Chris Dickinson, Kody Hart, Jacob Langenhahn, Craig McEwen, John Robinson, Rick Seefeldt.

Other Supervisors: Stacy Morache

Supporting Staff: Michael Puerner, Kim Trueblood, Toshia Ranallo

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Gibbs called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment (not to exceed 15 minutes) None

3. Approval of the Minutes of the September 13, 2023 Rules Review Committee Meeting

MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY SEEFELDT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Topics for Discussion and Possible Action

A. Review and consideration of existing Marathon County Board Rules*, discussion of potential revisions, and next steps for the Committee:

1) Summary of Discussion on Virtual Attendance of Meetings:

- Current rule: Chair can permit virtual attendance for special cases.
- General access to virtual meetings supported.
- Proposal to limit virtual attendance to three meetings a year.
- Challenges in determining valid reasons for virtual attendance.
- Anticipated enforcement challenges.
- Flexibility appreciated for unexpected situations.
- Agreement on establishing minimum attendance expectations.
- Proposal to allow supervisors to attend other committees virtually.
- Some strongly prefer in-person meetings.
- Consideration of covid-related concerns.
- Awareness of statewide trends in return to in-person meetings.
- Expectation set for in-person voter meetings.

2) Discussion on Recording and Televising Meetings - Meeting Minutes Summary

- Challenges include public access for subcommittee meetings, recording multiple simultaneous meetings, cost implications, deciding which meetings to record, and archiving recordings per state law.
- Suggestion to record Webex meetings and provide them to Public Access for website upload.
- Suggestions range from recording only Standing Committee meetings to recording all meetings for transparency.
- Recording is seen as a way for the public to view meetings they might miss due to work commitments.
- Cost and staff availability are key considerations.
- Initial request for NCHC meetings due to significant county investment.
- Suggested that supervisors decide at the Organizational meeting which meetings to record.
- Meeting recordings are subject to open records requests.
- Recording meetings can improve minute-taking accuracy and enhance supervisors' understanding of committees they don't regularly attend.
- Request for staff to provide feedback on additional costs.
- Questions about the cost of using Webex or Teams and uploading to YouTube.

- Concerns about inconsistencies from year to year, emphasizing the need for uniformity.
- Discussion about where and how to store recordings.
- The need to allocate budget resources for recording and Public Access services.
- Suggestion to create specific policies and procedures for recording meetings.
- Acknowledgment of the importance of providing public access, even if it incurs additional costs.
- Need for clearer minute-taking procedures and maintaining consistent minutes.
- Meeting recordings may be subject to open records requests.
- Recording enhances accuracy and knowledge.
- Discussion about budget allocation for recording and Public Access services.

3) Discussion on Appointing Vice Chairs to Subcommittees and Task Forces:

- Consider appointing vice chairs for subcommittees and task forces, clarifying the criteria for appointments.
- Acknowledge the need for vice chairs, particularly in complex situations involving multiple task forces.
- Recognize that some subgroups elect their own chairs and vice chairs through elections and need to be accounted for in the rules.
- Discuss the appointment process for chairs and vice chairs, differentiating between positions appointed by the board, executive committee, or members' election.
- Address the legal authority for limiting positions within organizations, mainly agreements with outside entities.
- Suggest the possibility of appointing vice chairs for entities directly outlined in the board's rules.
- Separate the discussions on vice chairs, chair responsibilities, and influencing decisions in other boards.
- Decide to handle the roles and responsibilities of chairs separately.

4) Incorporating Budget Process into Rules:

Concerns noted:

- New process approval and examination
- Accelerated timeline
- Early budget presentation for board and committee input
- Proposal for future rule inclusion after evaluation
- Missing data, e.g., shared infrastructure revenue
- Postponement of decisions until December
- Evaluation of milestones and developments later
- Deferring rule changes until after budget adoption
- Assessing the impact on the board

It was the consensus of the committee to delay rule changes and evaluate the new process after its implementation.

5) Streamlining Motions, Call the Question Process, 2/3 vs. ¾ Voting Requirements.

- Consider eliminating the vote after calling the question if there is no objection.
- Discuss the possibility of limiting the number of times a supervisor can call the question per meeting.
- Be cautious about raising the voting requirement from 2/3 to 3/4, as it could limit discussion.
- Concerns about potential abuse of calling the question and its impact on open discussion.
- Clarification on the concept of a walking quorum and its legal implications.
- Emphasize the importance of efficient meetings and preparation to avoid unnecessary use of calling the question.

5. Adjournment

MOTION BY SEEFELDT; SECOND BY ROBINSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:33AM

***Marathon County Code of Ordinances can be found online at the link below:**

https://www.municode.com/library/wi/marathon_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=12551

Minutes prepared by Toshia Ranallo, County Administration